DARLINGTON REVIEW

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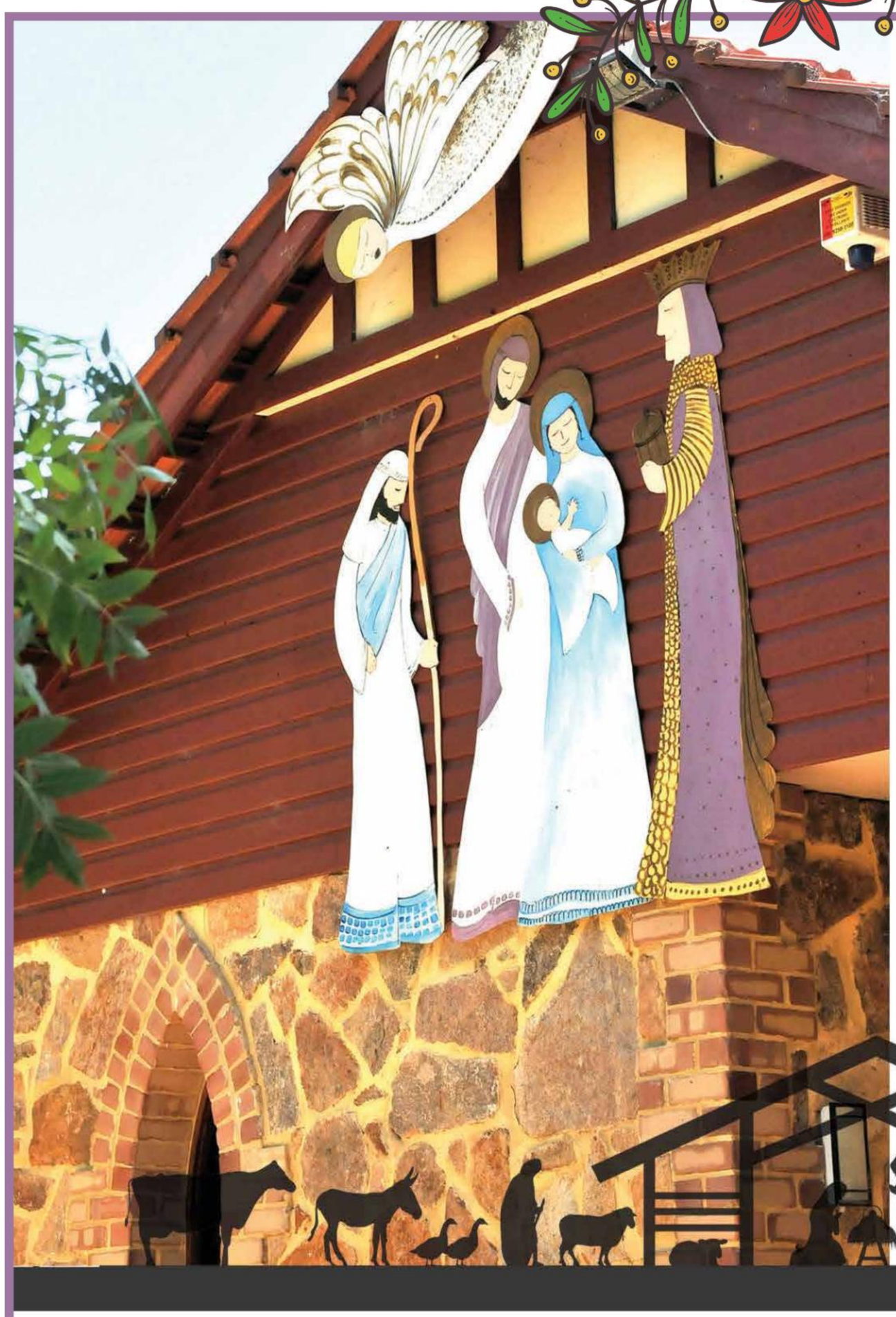

It's Advent and preparations for Christmas celebrations are underway at St Cuthbert's. There is joy in these preparations but our hope is to approach Christmas with an expectant hush. So we'll stay. Linger. Ponder. Wait. Wonder. There will be time enough for running, rushing and worrying. For now, we'll wait.

Something is on the horizon.

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Material for each edition of the Review must be submitted before 5pm on the 20th of the preceding month. Please keep Letter to the Review brief and include your name, address and phone number. Contact details will not be printed and you can request that a pseudonym rather than your name be used. Letters must be emailed to: editorial@darlingtonreview.com.au or placed in the Review box in the Post Office by the deadline date of the 20th of the month.

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EDITORIAL

Trea Wiltshire | December Editor

Trea Wiltshire has been a journalist in Africa, the UK and Asia and is the author of many illustrated history and travel books. She is the Review's Editorial Manager and long-time contributor.

An important December deadline

We'd planned to swing straight into reporting on what many agree was the best Darlington Arts Festival EVER – however an important proposed development drew many to the November Darlington Ratepayers and Residents Association (DRRA) meeting. The opinions expressed were so strong – and unanimous in their opposition – that an additional meeting (with the developer) was organised for a week later.

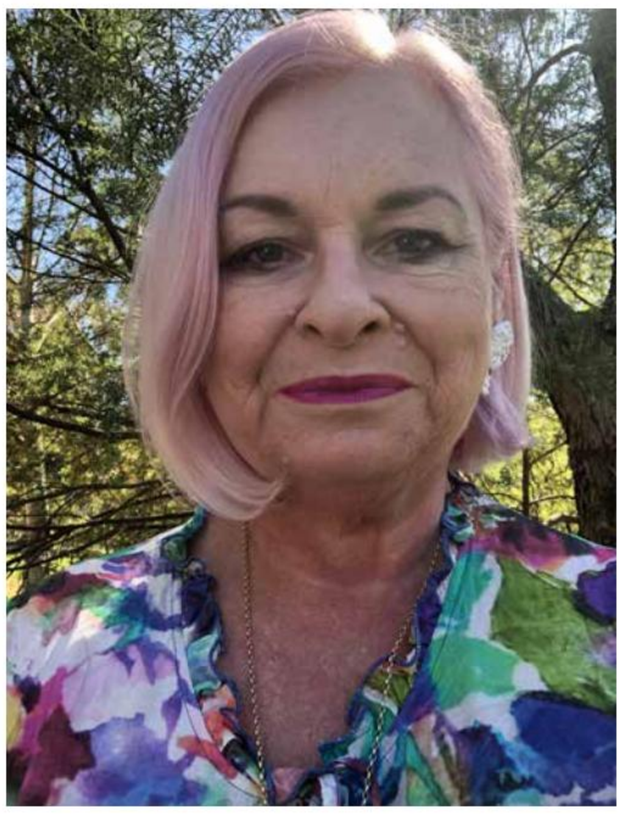
The Shire of Mundaring has called for comments on the proposed development of a childcare centre on the corner of Glen Road/Amherst Avenue, opposite Darlington Primary School. The centre is to cater for 80 children (0 – 5.5 years) and employ 13 staff in a single-storey building with 21 parking bays. If approved, it is predicted (by the proponent) to generate 364 vehicular movements per day where Glen meets Amherst and Leithdale Rd (the latter an established 'rat run' to the highway bypass for drivers from Glen Forrest and beyond, say Glen Rd residents).

Comment focussed on two issues: the already hazardous traffic situation and evacuation in the event of a bushfire. Darlington Road resident Ursula Sharman said it all: "Darlington's topography and bushland density places it among the highest bushfire risk areas in WA, which raises serious concerns about the safety of locating a childcare centre for infants and toddlers in the heart of the village. In the event of a bushfire, safely evacuating such a vulnerable group would be immensely challenging, especially with a simultaneous evacuation at the already over-capacity primary school next door.

"Compounding this is a road system that has remained largely unchanged since the early 1900s, making it dangerously inadequate for large-scale evacuations. Amherst Avenue is a no-through road, and with only five exit routes out of Darlington— all bordered by dense bushland— this poses an extremely perilous safety risk. Adding to this, the current traffic and parking issues in the area are already significant even on normal days— let alone in an emergency. This proposal simply does not align with the safety and infrastructure realities of our community."

While several speakers acknowledged that a child care centre in Darlington is a good idea, they strongly condemned the location: a narrow cul de sac where, at drop-off/pick-up times the situation, according to a Darlington Primary teacher Jen Woods, is a daily nightmare. "This proposal assumes drop offs will happen in an orderly manner. After 17 years at the school, I cannot in my wildest dreams see this happen. Turning either right or left into Glen is a nightmare. A childcare centre may be a great idea – but not there!"

Here's a sample of comments: *"Sometimes the level of frustration has almost led to fisticuffs."*… *"In recent years I have seen drop-off parents do wilder and wilder things."*… *"Adding 364 more vehicle movements daily– with little kids everywhere – is absolute madness!"*… *"Minimum standards may have been followed for the centre's on-site parking bays but that's simply insufficient given large SUVs – it would be very tight, and you could be reversing into traffic in Amherst."*… *"At pick-up, cars are queuing back to the Glen/Amherst junction, waiting to use the loop and those heading to the pre-primary car park end up getting impatient and driving on the wrong side of the road – the traffic is already chaotic!"*; … *"We bought within 500 metres of the school so the kids could walk, but you can't safely cross Amherst – people just drive too fast, it's congested, so even walking with kids is quite dangerous…"*



"A childcare centre may be a great idea – but not there!" says Darlington Primary teacher Jen Woods

"Darlington needs a childcare centre if it wants to keep attracting young couples but this location is wrong – it's already a nightmare that doesn't need extra traffic. I request a different location." Zali Stipanicev

This was a very well run DRRA meeting with President Louise Stelfox giving everyone a chance to speak but moving things along with the help of Vice President Raymond LeClezio and Secretary Karen Grey.

If you support or oppose this proposal you don't have much time: December 10 is the deadline. Submissions can be made online: http://engage.mundaring.com.au where you will find all the development's planning/traffic material; by email: shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au or mail: Planning Services, Shire of Mundaring, 7000 Great Eastern Highway, MUNDARING WA 6073.

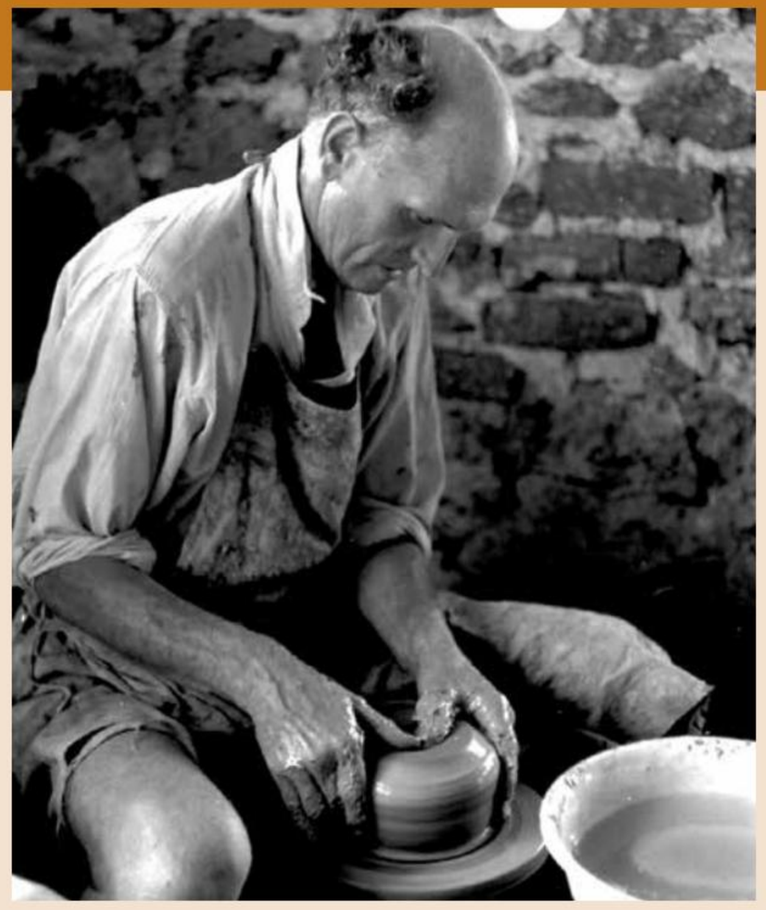
Submission will be analysed and a report prepared by the Shire for the decision-makers, the Outer Metro Development Assessment Panel (DAP). Developments like this with a budget in excess of $2m are able to bypass local government and go straight to DAP. A high degree of scepticism was expressed about the skewed voting system of DAPs. Shire President Paige McNeil observed: "The State Government's Local Government Reforms have eroded the local government's influence in planning decisions. DAPs have three independent specialists (usually planners) and only two local government representatives. The WA Local Government Association is advocating to raise the DAP project value threshold from $2M to $5M and to change the composition of DAP's to ensure equal representation of specialist members and local government members."

Those in the know say there's been a surge in development applications to DAPs that are opposed by ratepayers and that just happen to top the $2m mark. Approving a Plymouth Brethren development close to the difficult Hardy Road turn-off from the Great Eastern Highway, a DAP spokesperson said: "There were some very big numbers against it but this is not a numbers game, it comes down to planning merit."

It's super important you state your opposition or support of the proposal at 1 Amherst Road at the start of your submission. There is more important information about submissions in DRRA notes.

The Review deadline fell before the second meeting (with the developer), so you'll need to follow progress through DRRA which has called on the Shire of Mundaring for more time to inform the local community and make submissions.

In the beginning....



Guy Grey-Smith 1961 (Photo: Richard Woldendorp)

David Gregson's Provence Window

Robert Juniper (Photo: Richard Woldendorp)

Plant a seed, they say, and you plant hope. But, back in the 1950s and 60s, when a group of ambitious artistic rebels planted the DAF seed, no one could have foretold the extent of the Darlington Arts Festival's flourishing more than 70 years later.

The artists who mounted the first festivals turned Darlington into what the wider Perth community viewed as "an arty, bohemian enclave". As a group, they embraced the hippy ideals of the 60s, with self-sufficiency ranking high, and the homes and studios they built, from rammed earth to geodesic domes, reflected the artistry and innovation of their paintings, sculptures and ceramics.

While the festival's founders produced modernist paintings and sculptures that shocked Perth's staid cultural elites, they stirred interest among collectors who put the informal fledgling one-day festival on their calendars. And as the artists' reputations grew, so did the Festival's.

Today, the Darlington Arts Festival is arguably the State's longest-running community arts festival and certainly the biggest event of its kind in Mundaring. This year it spanned four days and drew 15,000 visitors, providing clubs, churches, schools and cultural/sporting groups with the year's biggest fund-raising opportunity.

Many who planted the DAF seed have passed – Guy and Helen Grey-Smith, David Gregson, Robert Juniper, photographer Richard Woldendorp, Wim Boissevain – but their creative legacy lies not only in Australia's public and private collections, but in a phenomenally successful – and now highly-professional – festival, that is run entirely by volunteers. It has come to define Darlington and our generous, can-do community.

Links with the past abound: Janet Holmes a Court lived briefly in Darlington in the 60s and, at early festivals, purchased the first three items in a now legendary art collection – works by Grey-Smith, Juniper and Boissevain. Today she funds the Mundaring Bicentennial Scholarship Trust's Youth Art Prize and its People's Choice Award. The Trust also contributes to Junior Art prizes – which is appropriate given its annual Robert Juniper Award for the Arts, supported by Trish Juniper, is aimed at boosting the careers of young artists.

Junior Art

This year, the Junior Art Awards were judged by Michael Betts whose studio is not far from where his father Mac Betts produced his celebrated landscapes. While the demands of WAAPA teaching and mural commissions meant Michael didn't exhibit this year, he appreciated being involved. "The creative thinking and natural artistry of young children never fails to captivate me, especially between the ages of four and six," he tells us. "At this stage, their imagination flows freely, untouched by the self-doubt that society often imposes later on. If only they could hold onto that innate brilliance!"

Michael Betts in front of one of his murals

The Art at the heart

Best Use of Materials winner Stephanie De Biasi with Open Art curators Lauren Peck and Rebeca DeRooy (Photo Bonnie Evans Photography)

Art remains firmly at the heart of the Festival and this year works ranged across a broad spectrum of mediums – from the winning traditional landscape in pastels to a sculpture cleverly crafted from bottle tops that won the best use of materials award.

While the application period was shortened due to the creation of DAF's new website, some 146 artworks were submitted and were well hung by the curatorial team of Rebecca DeRooy and Lauren Peck. A fresh layout and new mobile display boards (sponsored by Bendigo Bank and DaSRA) allowed more space for viewing

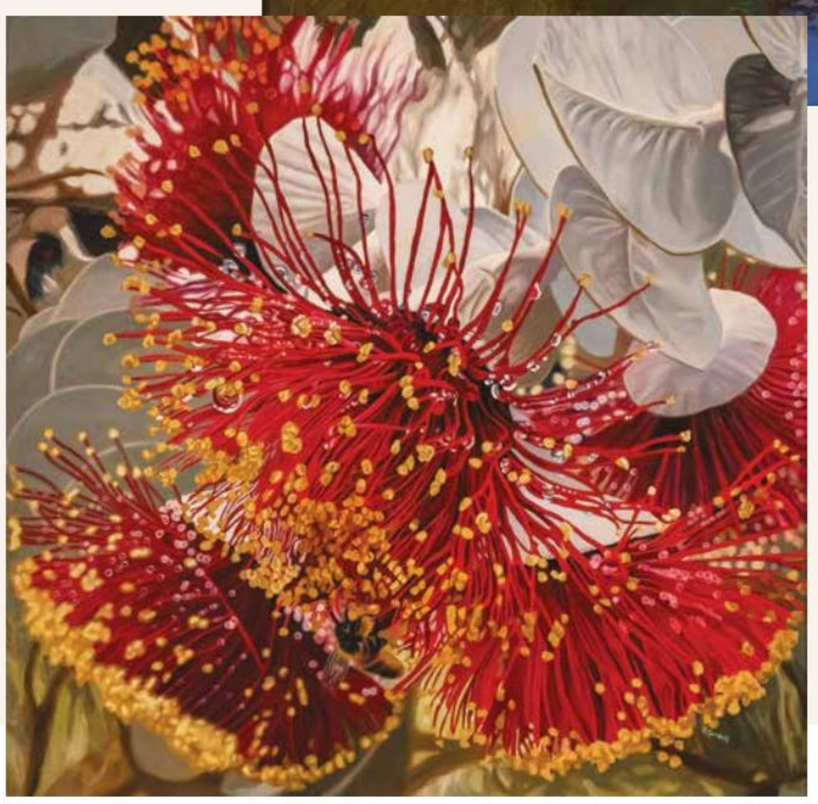
Did 3D artists miss the deadline queried a long-time exhibitor? Hard to say, but there were fewer and Rebecca hopes to see an increase next year. "However, there was still a good representation of materials including textiles pieces presented as 2D works, a felt whale shark, a stunning mixed media/sewn work and other impressive pieces."

An aspect of the exhibition that links 2024 artworks with those of the founders was the celebration of our unique environment. "There were some spectacular bush and waterscapes created as photographs, paintings, printmaking and mixed media," observed Rebecca. "The closer you got to the overall winner – a pastel landscape by Jessica Halliday – the more detail you were aware of, an amazing feat considering the medium."

Well-known local photographer Paul Bastian spied his subject when walking in Greenmount National Park, and his stunning Bookleaf Plant won the Highly Commended Award. "I used focus stacking whereby about 10 images were taken with minimal manual adjustment of the focus and then combined in post editing so that everything is in sharp focus," says Paul. "Yes, it was time consuming but enjoyable, producing the final image that was printed on fine art archival paper to give more impact to the image."

Paul Bastian's Highly Commended Bookleaf

Rebecca has clearly found her curatorial niche and wants to encourage more younger artists to submit works. "It would be great to see more Youth Artists join us on leaving school – because they bring new perspectives, techniques, and conversations that keep our exhibition relevant and exciting."



L-R: Stacey Gardoll's People's Choice Award Rhodanthus in the Rain; Jessica Halliday's Best in Show Searching for Solace and People's Choice Award (Youth Art) Lola Beagley- Projections of Light, Life and Love (Photo Bonnie Evans Photography)

The Opening

Before the presentation of awards, Olman Walley once again sang our Festival into being from the verandah of the lit-up hall. In a much-appreciated Welcome to Country, Olman's didgeridoo summoned the spirits of an ancient scarp with a unique suite of flora and fauna, and a landscape that inspired so much of the 2024 artwork.

Presenting the last of the many Lotterywest cheques, Matthew Hughes, retiring MLA (and Darlington local) reminded us that our festival benefits from the only lottery in Australia that ploughs its profits into art, sport, health and much more. He also hinted that, after discarding his political hat next year he could well don a Festival T-shirt – which brought a swift response from DAF President Amy Pepper: "You're already elected!"

Representing the Shire, President Paige McNeil paid tribute to the high level of local volunteering that keeps the Festival Committee well stocked with ready hands and high performing professionals. And being a very hands-on President, Paige had already signed up to join the more than 300 over-the-weekend volunteers who pick up a huge range of jobs.

DAF President Amy Pepper was clearly delighted to report that both LotteryWest and Mundaring Shire had increased their grants this year – "allowing us some flexibility and longevity in our planning". One area the Shire and DAF have long wanted to expand is the involvement of youth – and this year the Youth Engagement Program got the sort of momentum that will assure its future.

MLA Matthew Hughes presents the Lotterywest cheque to DAF President Amy Pepper (Photo Bonnie Evans Photography)

Mundaring Mundaring Shire Councillors Prapti Mehta, Vice President Trish Cook, DAF President Amy Pepper, President Paige McNeil, Luke Ellery (Photo Bonnie Evans Photography)

DAF Youth Engagement finds its own vibe

The Darlington Station Reserve became home to DAFYEP's family-friendly 'chill lounge' with comfy seating and beanbags drawing an audience for a string of young performers. This venue is an idea whose time had come, and young musicians Tony and Freya (above) welcomed its informal vibe.

Kalamunda High's Michelle Vivian (above) watching some of her pupils, perform, said the 'chill zone' could become a much-needed additional performance opportunity for young Hills musos. DAF's Amy Pepper, who has led the youth engagement initiative, was very happy with the result. "We've long wanted to make use of the Sculpture in the Scarp space as an early evening alternative to the Wine Tent for those who want to stay engaged with the Festival. And it was good to see that some of those wandering through the sculptures took a seat and joined the gathering."

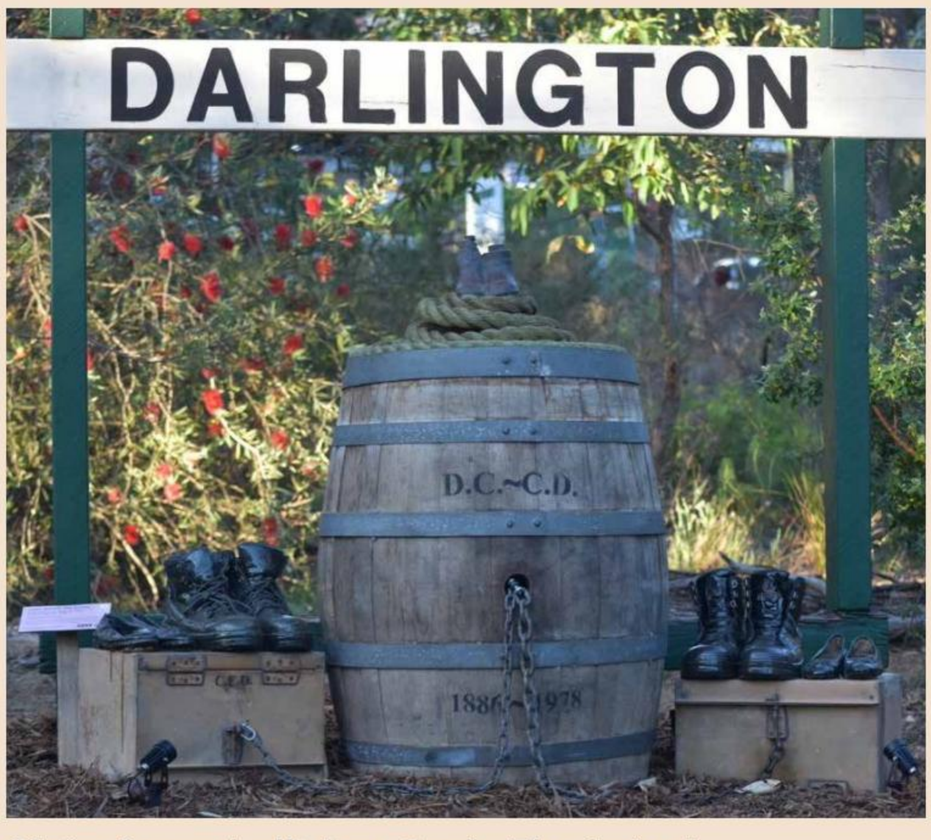
Sculpture on the Scarp

Key members of the Friends of Darlington Station Reserve need medals for mounting a relentless weeding/clearing roster over many weeks to ensure the area provided a scenic backdrop for the sculptures. Dee Robinson's Big Red became a fine reflection of the surrounding vegetation – with its glinting red inlays echoing the nearby bottlebrush.

Judged the Best Sculpture, this work was among the four favourites in the 2024 People's Choice Award that went to Stuart Bryce's aluminium and acrylic Respond II. And with almost a quarter of Darlington residents born overseas, we liked Claire Davenhall's *Lost Soles: The Arrival*. With its slightly worn tin trunks, and high-polished boots and shoes – ready to stride into a new life – it looked very much at home on the old station platform.

Best Sculpture winner Dee Robinson

Best sculpture Big Red (Photo: Bonnie Evans Photography)



Claire Davenhall's Lost Souls: The Arrival

Detail of Beverley Iles's Topography, Winner of the Lawrence Gelman

People's Choice Award: Stuart Bryce's Respond II (Photo: Bonnie Evans Photography)

Busk Stop

While the main stage garnered huge audiences thanks to Performing Arts Program's Ian Christie, Claire Ditri and sound man Andrew Greenham, the designated Busk Stop attracted solo buskers drawing groups of admirers happy to drop some appreciative dollars in their music cases.

One busker has become a familiar face at Festivals – we took this photo (right) of the C & J Rockin duo (Charlie and Jack Dudek) way back when both were in primary school. Now Jack (photographed below) is at John Curtin College of the Arts and big brother Charlie, a drummer, has graduated.

The Workshop Village

Young visitors welcomed the return of their own "have a go" space that offered lots of options. And kids weren't the only ones learning. Pippa Windsor of running school fame, organiser of the highly successful Workshop Village, brushed up her long-lost knitting skills under the critical eye of Bob Simpson, the now retired former Deputy Principal of Helena College.

Bob told us that as a young boy who scoffed at a little sister struggling with dropped stitches, his mum challenged him to get busy with the needles – and a life-long hobby (and de-stresser) was born! And those skills were further honed when sailing to the Faroe Isles to take up an early teaching post. "It took two days to get there and all the fishermen were knitting jumpers," he recalls. One of his own colourful jumpers was on display to inspire his pupils.

The Music….

The occasional light shower did nothing to dampen spirits at this year's DAF Wine Tent, says the organiser of Wine Tent music, Glen Whisson. "The atmosphere was fantastic, with an impressive lineup of talent captivating the audience.

In fact, there were more performers than ever before, with 55 musicians representing 15 acts performed over the weekend – and exceptionally diverse musical offerings including solos, duos and bands young and old." Our trusty Blue Manna were back headlining the Saturday night line-up and local soundman, Fenton Oldmeadow, did a splendid job and was on stage, once again, to finish the Festival with the "Sundowner Singalong" of much-loved favourites.

Blue Manna firing up the Wine Tent on the Saturday night

….and the dance party!

DAF's fundraising Garden Dance Party with a Flower Frenzy theme saw more than 200 guests come together for a night of dancing and fun with Festival favourite DJ Christina and bongo player Coco providing an irresistible beat for dancers.

The fundraiser was organized by this year's DAF Bar team – Tania Whisson, Gabrielle Morris, Simone Dempster and newcomer Alex Thompson – and the DAF Bar and Wine Tent were busy, buzzing social hubs with a special line-up of live music.

"All funds raised by the Friday night event and Bar go directly to the Festival," says Tania. "It's a big effort but we had a brilliant team of volunteers – from set-up crew to bar staff. And we couldn't have done it without support from committee members Len Nielsen, who takes care of all the tech stuff, Brendon Thompson and his team who get all the infrastructure in place, and Jodie Hutton who deals with all the money management over the weekend."

And the photo booth clearly proved a huge hit and captured some classic poses!

DAF Vice President Tania Whisson and Groundsman Brendon Thompson (Photo Bonnie Evans Photography)

The best ever?

With the weather gods providing benign sunshine and just a hint of rain, visitors commented on a sense of calm unusual for an event of this scale.

"Everything just came together – it worked," observed Tania Whisson when it was all over. Of course, it helps to have DAF veterans at the helm and President Amy and VP Tania also belong in that quietly-efficient, seemingly-unflappable league of leaders.

We always go to Brendon Thompson for behind-the-scenes stories and, because of that atmosphere of calm, we caught him yarning with Ron Stuurstraat in the Information Tent about his only averted dramas: waste bins that failed to arrive, with the Funky Floral Dance Party a couple of hours away. Never short of helpful mates, he got on the phone, secured a skip and the Festival-friendly Mundaring Shire sent 20 bins, saying "forget the paperwork, we'll do it next week". Earlier, the Shire had also fast-tracked the fixing of oval electricity.

Ron reported that as stallholders packed up on Sunday, they were all smiles – "one vendor who's been attending festivals for 33 years said this one was the best ever, and most stall holders, including the Darlington History Group, reported their best ever sales," said Ron.

"And another sign of record-breaking attendances was food vans running out of stock."

"Yes, they had a great weekend," said Alex Hoschke, who was in charge of the vans. Alex particularly welcomed back the donut stall after a few years break, with Sawyers Valley Primary School raising money for a school camp. "As always, the donuts were extremely popular so they're keen to return next year. It was good to see the kids involved as well."

Groups such as the Forrest Darlings CWA view the Festival as their key fundraising event and an opportunity to raise the group's profile and recruit new members. Chair Kate Herren says: "Last year was our first event in the providore tent selling baked goods - we were previously out on the oval with a craft stall. The baked goods proved to be hugely popular and we raised over $1500, our biggest fundraiser of the year."

Noise Bin has landed!

The Noise Bin collective chose the carnival atmosphere of the Festival to launch its novel waste bin, the eye-catching Boab Tree that, as DaSRA's Geoff Barker noted, was designed with the help of Darlington students. It was originally hoped that the bin would light up and emit sounds when fed cans, so a team of technically-minded boffins got busy. As guests gathered, a young resident demonstrated that the Noise Bin did indeed gobble up cans… until a gremlin got in the works! The consensus, however, is that even if it never eats another can, fails to light up or make intriguing sounds, the Noise Bin has found a home and is well-loved for what it is: a fanciful boab? a visitor from outer space? or pretty much whatever your imagination dreams up! And the boffins are still tinkering…

DaSRA's Geoff Barker and locals feeding the Noisebin and guests at the launch

Seachange for Sarah

Sarah Brookes with daughter Audrey

When the Prime Minister's entourage descended on Darlington recently with a media scrum in its wake, the buzz and flurry surrounding the event further convinced Audrey Franzi to follow in the footsteps of her mum, award-winning local journo Sarah Brookes.

Audrey, a Year 10 Helena College student, describes herself as 'self-sufficient' and her mum knows her as sassy, single-minded and independent – so Sarah wasn't surprised when her daughter announced she'd applied to complete her final years of high school at a Sydney academic select school known for its advanced English program and 'uni campus' style. In fact, she'd already applied and been accepted before the PM's visit!

Both mother and daughter have now decided that a 'sea change' will be beneficial – Sarah because of a series of recent losses (including her mum, nanna and much-loved dog Molly) coupled with a desire for new professional challenges, and Audrey because she loves the bustle of Sydney and plans to chart her own path into media, particularly as a music critic, with Sydney offering more opportunities for both.

Whereas Sarah came to the profession as a solo parent in her 30s after studying at Curtin Uni and settling in Darlington, Audrey would prefer a cadetship in a media organisation so she can learn on the job rather than pay thousands of dollars for tertiary study.

Readers of the Review have enjoyed – and sometimes been provoked by – by Sarah's journalism, originally in the Echo and Hills Gazette (remember that memorable article on our Taj Mahal stone bus stop?). More recently she's worked with the Fairfax/Nine's digital *WAtoday* and has edited several issues of the Review.

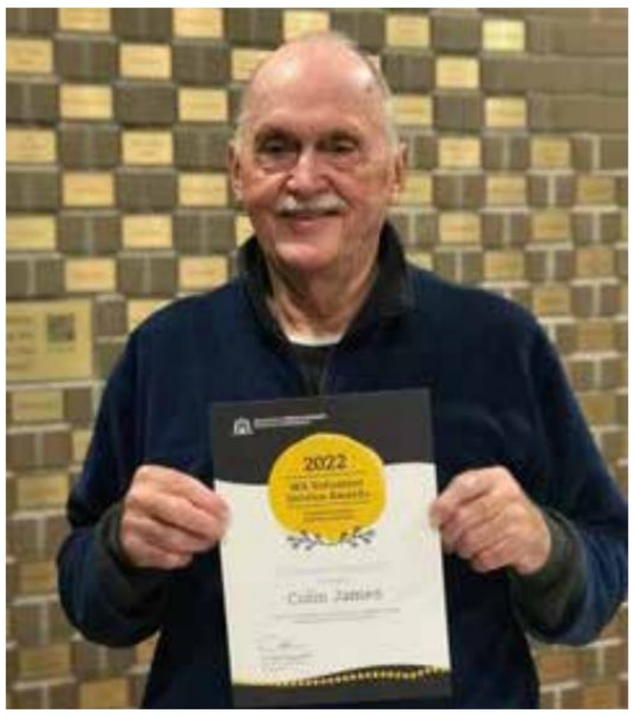
"I'm hoping to continue doing my job from the Sydney Morning Herald office which would be an amazing chance to work alongside some great investigative reporters," says Sarah. "It will certainly be novel moving from a half-acre bush block in Darlington to a unit at the beach, but I've managed to rehome one dog down the road, one of my colleagues is moving into the house and my son Zac (currently doing ATAR) is considering several options, so, ready, set, go!"

We wish them well.

Shout out for DCRAG

As the community reconsiders the workings of its ratepayers, sporting and community organisations, Colin James's final notes for the Darlington Community Recreation Advisory Group (DCRAG) are well worth reading.

Colin reports that while the group's activities will become part of an expanded DRRA, its impressive achievements have changed the face of recreation in Darlington, including the building/upgrade of the Darlington Community Pavilion. Colin witnessed all those changes, having been involved with DCRAG for 44 years, the last 16 as Secretary. What he doesn't mention is his own incredibly generous personal $100,000 guarantee for the pavilion project. An extraordinary gesture by a local whose extraordinary service to this community continues through his work with the brigade, bushfire ready and other groups.



What's happening???

December is always busy socially but make a note of upcoming events you won't want to miss – Day in the Forest at Glen Forrest Dec 7; *Mother Goose on the Loose*, playing at Marloo Theatre until December 7; and you probably don't need reminding that everyone's favourite outdoor Kookaburra Cinema is offering a program packed with variety, including seasonal oldies like *Love Actually* and new release *Paddington in Peru*.

Paddington in Peru

Meg Selman at Two Birds plans a Christmas Market on Thursday December 5 kicking off at 4pm with stalls and music – and a heap of great gift ideas. And don't forget to check out the Shire's Summer of Entertainment (advert in this issue) with movies, music and more happening across Mundaring.

Meg Selman

And at Juniper Gallery

If you're after an artistic gift, Juniper Gallery's final exhibition this year has a great mix of works including landscapes and portraits by resident artist Jo Meredith who recently returned from the UK after completing a portraiture course. "The courses I've done in Florence and Salisbury use a limited earth palette which allows for naturalistic skin tones. In contrast, I love using bright colours to paint WA landscapes, particularly our vibrant North West. I'm currently finding my way combining the two palettes, finding softer greys within the vibrant landscapes and more dimensions in my figures. You can see the marriage of the two palettes in the painting of St Paul's Cathedral."

Jo Meredith's St Paul's Cathedral

Deck the Hall....!

A couple of years ago, when it looked as if Carols by Candlelight might fall in a heap for lack of an organiser, the Whisson family stepped up, decked the Hall with fairy lights, rustled up some singers, printed song books, and made it happen, with funds from Earnshaws and the Darlington Review. Locals have taken this pared down one-hour event to their hearts: just a gathering of people who love to sing carols at the village hall on the night before Christmas. They're doing it again this year (see details below) and we thank them.

Housekeeping

Just a reminder: there is no January issue and please note (on the inside front cover) the increase in advertising costs from February.

Ron Stuurstraat with fellow Festival volunteer Brendon Thompson

The Review received a great Christmas gift when our appeal for a new Advertising Manager brought local legend, pharmacist, long-time Festival volunteer Ron Stuurstraat into the Review 'family'. Ron overheard current manager Julie telling a prospective candidate that the job took about six hours a month. "Well, I could do that!" he chipped in. Thank you Stuurstraats for making sure that this vital job is in safe hands.

The Review Committee wish our editors and production/printing team, along with readers and advertisers, a safe and happy festive season.

Trea Wiltshire (December Editor)

Letter to the Review

"The proposed development of a child care centre on the corner of Amherst and Glen presents an excellent opportunity for Darlington. As a 24-year-old looking to start a family in the near future, I would welcome a local child care option. However, as a resident of Amherst Ave, I believe the proposed location is problematic.

Safety is a significant concern. The existing school drop-off situation already creates chaos, and adding more vehicles and young children to the mix could have serious consequences. Parking is another key issue: the centre is planned to accommodate 80 children and 13 staff, but only 21 parking bays are included in the proposal. With 13 bays allocated to staff, that leaves just 8 bays for families dropping off 80 children during peak hours (typically between 7am and 9am). It's hard to see how this would work in practice. Parents parking on Amherst, crossing a busy road with small children, and spending 10+ minutes saying their goodbyes will only worsen congestion and compromise safety.

Additionally, turning from Amherst onto Glen is already difficult. Increased traffic from the centre would exacerbate this issue, adding further stress to local residents and road users.

If Darlington is serious about attracting younger families, it's essential to ensure facilities are both accessible and safe. While this child care centre would be a valuable addition to our community, the current location poses too many risks. With traffic calming measures such as speed bumps, a roundabout, or improvements to the existing school drop-off area, the site could potentially work. Until then, a different location must be considered for the safety and harmony of our community"

Tania Lawrence | Member of Hasluck

Making a bright future for our children

Wherever people gather and talk together, children soon become part of the conversation.

They make us smile and laugh; they make us proud. From time to time, we worry. We worry, because we hope for the best – for a bright future ahead.

The Albanese Labor Government to which I belong, wants all children in Australia to be given the opportunity to thrive and flourish, for their sake and for the sake of us all.

This isn't only a matter for parents, childcare workers and teachers. Caring for children is everybody's business.

We make bright futures possible for all, not just a fortunate few. That starts with early childhood education and the vitally important first steps along an educational pathway.

We're following the advice of the Productivity Commission, telling us that the first step in building an affordable and available universal early education system is to provide pay rises for those who make that education happen.

The educators who guide those early steps have specialised knowledge and skills that the Albanese government is determined to respect. That's why we're setting up a Wage Justice for Early Childhood Education and Care Workers Special Account to deliver a 15 per cent pay rise to encourage skilled and dedicated people to stay in their chosen profession.

And it's working. There are now 30,000 more early educators working in the sector than there were when we came into office.

At the same time, childcare costs have been cut for more than 1 million families.

Our Better and Fairer Schools Agreement is the outcome of collaboration with State and Territory governments, First Nations education representatives and non-government peak education bodies. This ten-year agreement includes a Year 1 phonics check and early years of schooling numeracy check to identify the students who need additional help.

Our goal of no one held back, no one left behind, holds true for all Australians, young and old alike.

Wherever we can, we are taking care to offer the protection that children need in their formative years. This is a complex matter, and it will always be a work in progress, as new situations and challenges arise.

When we protect children, we protect our future. When we unlock economic opportunity for children, through education, we unlock economic opportunity for Australia.

As we have seen the benefits following the decision by Education Ministers to ban the use of mobile phones in schools, we will be legislating 16 as the minimum age for access to social media. This onus will be on platform providers to protect our children from online social harm.

It's all part of building a future for Australia in which we can all be the best versions of ourselves.

ADVERTISEMENT

Matthew Hughes MLA JP
Member for Kalamunda Electorate

Contact your local MP:

Kalamunda Office:
Shop 9, Kalamunda Central
Railway Road, Kalamunda WA 6076

Mundaring Office:
Wednesday - Friday 9am to 12
By Appointment only
3/7160 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring
(Next to Patch of Country Cafe)

9293 4747
kalamunda@mp.wa.gov.au
Matthew Hughes MLA

Community First

Budding artists, Neave and Henry from Kalamunda Christian School, Matilda from Clifton Hills Primary School and Sophia from Wooroloo Primary School are the winners of my 2024 Christmas Card Art Competition.

Now in its 20th year, this annual competition gives students the opportunity to enter creative Christmas designs from which the winning artwork is chosen. As you can imagine, it is very difficult to choose the winners as the entries are always of a very high standard. We certainly have many creative students across these schools!

Sophia's drawing of a snoozing Koala and joey in a tree with the words "Fa La La Koa La La", a great spin on a well-known Christmas Carol, Neave's drawing of a fabulous Christmas Tree, Matilda's happy Santa and his elf and Henry's very Australian beach Christmas showed such creativity and a great deal of fun!

If you are in or passing through Guildford before Christmas, please stop by to see the magnificent display of all of the 2024 entries. They are decorating the windows of my electorate office located at Ground Floor, 108 Swan Street Guildford. I am sure you will agree that all of the entries are happy and bright!

With my retirement from State Parliament next year, this will be my last Christmas Art Competition. Over 20 years, the competition has brought a great deal of enjoyment for me and all of the schools that have participated. I have received thousands of entries over the years so a big thank you from me to all of the students who have made the competition so very special and fun.

As this is the last edition of the Darlington Review for 2024, I wish all readers a safe and Merry Christmas and a very Happy 2025!

Hon Donna Faragher JP MLC

ADVERTISEMENT

Here to help!
DONNA FARAGHER JP MLC
MEMBER FOR **EAST METROPOLITAN REGION**
Shadow Minister for **Community Services; Early Childhood Education; Seniors & Ageing; Youth**
Ground Floor, 108 Swan Street Guildford 6055
9379 0840 | faragher.eastmetro@mp.wa.gov.au
Authorised by D.Faragher, Ground Floor 108 Swan Street Guildford WA 6055

Councillor's Column South Ward | Cr Luke Ellery | Shire of Mundaring

Merry Christmas Darlington,

I hope the 2024 Christmas season brings you and your family joy and peace as we enjoy celebrations, gift-giving, holidays and reflection of events 2000 years ago that changed the world. This year will mark a special Christmas in the Ellery household as we celebrate our first Christmas with our new baby, Liana.

I'd like to thank all the volunteers of the Darlington Arts Festival and congratulate them on their biggest year yet. The Shire has increased our sponsorship of the event and look forward to partnering with DAF for youth workshops in years to come. Special thanks to the first-aid team, Amy, Skye and Jen who were able to give my family such care and kindness in a time of need.

There are several planning applications in the area including a child-care premises in Darlington, a subdivision in Helena Valley and Chidlow and a retail premises in Swan View with most submissions closing in December. It is always good to have community input and submissions can be made on our Engage Mundaring Website. It is important to state if you are for or against a development and keep feedback to planning issues. https://engage.mundaring.wa.gov.au/

Last month the Shire hosted its first President's Sundowner: an event that looked to recognize and thank over 200 volunteers in our Shire whilst allowing the power of our community to lobby the State and Federal candidates for our issues. A commendable effort by our President Paige McNeil, staff and our groups helped make the event the success it was.

Some important dates on closures:

- Coppin Rd and Mathieson Rd Transfer stations will be closed Christmas Day (25th), Boxing Day (26th) and New Years Day (1st Jan) and Coppin Rd is normally closed on Friday (27th). Please check the shire website in case of any harvest vehicle movement bans.
- Shire offices and libraries will be closed from 25th Dec to 1st Jan
- Please note your bin collection will come one day late for Christmas (i.e. if your bin day is normally Wednesday (Christmas Day), it will be collected Thursday (Boxing Day)). Please don't forget to leave your bin out!

Wishing you and your families the very best this Christmas Season.

Cr Luke Ellery

ADVERTISEMENT
Listening to Darlington
I'm Adam — a local dad, pharmacist, and your Liberal candidate for Kalamunda.
As a sixth-generation Perth Hills resident, my family, the Horts, settled in Darlington in the 1800s, and I'm proud to continue that legacy.
With deep roots, proven leadership, and a commitment to listening, I'm here to represent you.
I'll work to support local businesses, ease living costs, and preserve what makes our Hills communities unique.
Together, let's build a strong future for the Perth Hills.
0497 366 473
Adam.Hort@waliberal.org.au
www.adamhort.com.au
Adam
HORT
LIBERAL FOR KALAMUNDA

Disclaimer: The Darlington Review's Rules of Association (2012) read: *"To produce and publish a monthly journal with the intention of fostering good relationships within the Darlington community and keeping residents informed about community issues."* Our *Guide for Scribes* invites members to submit notes "to inform members and the Darlington Community about past, ongoing and future activities…". The Review accepts no liability for errors/omissions contained in articles, statements or advertisements published herein. The views expressed in Letters and Notes are not the views of the Darlington Review and we are not responsible for them. Members are requested to ensure their notes adhere to the magazine's guiding spirit of fostering harmonious community relationships. The Darlington Review is available in digital format via *Issu*, the online website.

Darlington Ratepayers and Residents Association (DRRA)

"Preserving the character of Darlington and safeguarding the interests of its ratepayers and residents - Since 1909"

Community meeting 14 November 2024

At the time of reading, DRRA will have hosted two community meetings in November to discuss the development application for 1 Amherst Avenue on the corner of Glen Rd. Unfortunately the proponent, who had been invited to the initial meeting, was unable to attend due to personal reasons, but agreed to attend a further community meeting on the 21st.

The meeting held on the 14th, was well attended and sparked strong and clear discussion. There was overwhelming concern for the location of a commercial business of this size in this particular location of Darlington. Residents made a point of stating that the concept of childcare is not the primary issue and that it is the location of the proposal that is a major concern. The increase in traffic that is predicted for the area, had local residents and parents of children from Darlington Primary School voicing concerns over safety and access to the school at peak drop off and pick up times. The traffic report submitted by the proponent estimates that there will be at least 364 extra vehicles each day in the immediate vicinity. One of the major factors with this is that Leithdale and Glen Rd's are increasingly a rat run through from Glen Forrest and beyond, to the bypass and Roe Hwy. In the event of an emergency fire evacuation, Leithdale and Glen Rd's are major entry and exit points to the village and significant concerns were raised around the amount of traffic needing to access the village schools, the *proposed development* and the few leader roads in and out of the village.

The proponent has chosen to take this application directly to the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) for deliberation, rather than taking it through the council process. One of the (many) concerns DRRA has with the DAP is that the DAP does not require developers to justify how they estimate meeting the $2 million threshold for bypassing the local council and accessing the DAP. This results in the community having significantly less opportunity for engagement in proposals and thereby, the development of their community. Currently, although there is the potential to do so, Mundaring Shire chooses not to debate the Responsible Authority Report prepared by planning officers in council prior to it being sent to DAP. DRRA has formally requested from the CEO and Shire President that the Shire request an extension from the DAP to enable council to consider the RAR prior to it being sent to the DAP and we await the CEO's response.

DRRA strongly encourages the community to put in a submission for this development application. It is the only voice you have in the DAP process. Beginning your submission, clearly state whether you are for or against the development, and then follow up with your reasons referencing them to Clause 67 from the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015.

The proposal is advertised on the Mundaring Shire website at http://engage.mundaring.wa.gov.au/

All of the documents submitted by the proponent documents relating to the proposal are visible and downloadable when you open the tab for 1 Amherst Ave.

All submissions must be received by the Shire by 4pm on Friday 10th December 2024.

The Darlington Precinct Plan, Locality Plan, Darlington 2060, Mundaring Shire Child Care policy, Clause 67 from the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 (which directly addresses what will be discussed at the DAP), and a briefing note on how to make a good submission, will be attached to the DRRA posts on the HUB. You can request them via email from the secretary at drra@darlingtonvillage.org

Darlington Bushfire Ready Group

A recent meeting was held to preview the forthcoming fire season with representatives from DFES Community Preparedness, Shire of Mundaring Bushfire Mitigation, Darlington Brigade and several street contacts. A number of issues raised at our post season meeting in May had been attended to or reasons given for their current status.

DFES are very concerned about the relative low-level connection by residents to having a Bushfire Plan in place. The seasonal outlook on the Forrest drought for 2023/24 indicates more ground fuel with the summer being longer, hotter and drier and the fire danger rating high on more occasions. Discuss your Bushfire Plan with the family and keep it close by, ready to use if necessary. It takes around 15 minutes to create a plan – look at the Got 15 Minutes to Burn? campaign at https://news.dfes.wa.gov.au/my-bushfire-plan.

All residents need to know and promote the Emergency WA (EWA) website at www.emergency.wa.gov.auhttps://www.emergency.wa.gov.au, the key tool for alerts and warning information. In December DFES will be launching Emergency WA as a mobile phone App. Alerts and warning information will still be available on the Emergency WA website and be broadcast on ABC Radio and the DFES social media page.

Bushfire Mitigation Support – Mundaring Shire Mitigation officers are conducting hazard reduction burns and firebreaks in the Glen Forrest Superblock are being upgraded. Shire officers will also undertake house inspections for bushfire preparedness and advice. Disastrous Dinners have been a great success - residents invite friends and neighbours to a person's home where a Mitigation Officer and representative from Red Cross talk about planning and recovery, and what actions need to be undertaken before and after an incident.

The Darlington Brigade is ready for the fire season with two additional high fire vehicles and members are all prepared. Recently conducted evacuation exercises at Helena Valley and Darlington primary schools all went according to the school's bushfire plans.

All contacts are again reminded our Bushfire Ready Group facilitators are available to have street meets with residents as needed and information and advice is available at the Darlington Fire Station Saturday mornings between 9.00 and 10.00am

Colin James, Coordinator | 0419 969 223

HAVE YOU?????DONE YOUR BUSHFIRE PLAN YET!!!!!!!

Stay alert to what is happening around you, and put your Bushfire Plan in place. If needing any information on what to do around your home, come down to the Fire Station on a Saturday morning between 9.00am and 10.00am.

Darlington Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

REMEMBER

000 is the **ONLY** number to ring for all fire and smoke sightings.

- **The** ComCen **will page our members who are on duty.**
- **For general Brigade enquiries please ring** 9299 7217. Station hours: **Saturday 9am-10:30am.**
  Web: **darlingtonfire.org.au** • Facebook: **Darlington Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade** • Instagram: **dvbfb_**
- Next Brigade meeting: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at the Darlington Fire Station.

The 24/25 fire season is now upon us, and December 1st marked the start of the PROHIBITED Burning Period in the Shire of Mundaring. ALL burning activity is now PROHIBITED until at least the end of March 2025, INCLUDING burning small piles of garden refuse after 6pm. A prolonged winter and late rainfall mean substantially more vegetation growth for this time of year, which, when it withers and dies in the coming summer heat, will provide higher fuel loads. Please be vigilant during the fire season and report any sightings of smoke or fire immediately, by calling 000. We also encourage you to note down any suspicious activity in your area, before or after a fire, and report it to Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000. Our doors are always open on Saturday mornings from 9am-10.30am, and you're welcome to visit to get information about bush fire mitigation and management.

Shire of
MUNDARING
PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD
1 December to 31 March (inclusive)
All burning, including garden refuse is prohibited during this period.

Continue to be proactive in maintaining your property throughout summer and minimise the potential for a bush fire to impact your home. Your fire breaks (3m wide and 4m high) must now be in place, and you should have your 'asset protection zone' of 20 metres established. Download the 'My Bushfire Plan' app and prepare your bushfire action plans now, making them relevant to your specific property and family needs (don't forget your pets), and practice them with your children. You should also have your bushfire survival kit prepared and ready to go, so check it now for used and/or out of date items. And join your local Bushfire Ready Group to help keep your neighbourhood informed and safe.

HOW FIREPROOF IS YOUR PLAN?
Bushfires are unpredictable and happen every year. The single biggest killer is indecision.
What will you do if there is a bushfire?
Leave early
Your safest choice.
Stay and defend
Only if you're well prepared.
Help me decide
Not sure? Let us help you.

Download My Bushfire Plan App

Access your bushfire plan anytime - even without an internet connection.

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play

Thank you to all the community members that came and saw us during the Darlington Arts Festival. Our Bratwurst hotdog, and Bushfire Ready Group tents are always a highlight of our annual social calendar, as well as an opportunity to share bush fire mitigation information with locals and visitors alike. We also attended the Baby Expo in Koongamia, as well as visits to a Daycare Centre and local schools. And, as we head towards Christmas, keep an eye and an ear out for our fire trucks in case Santa needs a ride around the area to check his naughty and nice list before the big day. With all this activity our volunteer members continued to conduct Hazard Reduction Burns, undergo training, and attend incidents.

We would like to thank the community for your ongoing support of the Brigade. As volunteers, we are encouraged by the continuing physical, moral and financial support that the Darlington community, and wider communities, give to us year after year. Thank you also to the businesses that are very generous in supporting their local Brigade.

SHOW US YOUR KIT
Passports, documents, bank cards & cash
Sturdy footwear, gloves & spare clothes
First aid kit, toiletries & medecines
Sleeping bag, blankets & towels
EMERGENCY KIT
Radio, torch & spare batteries
Food & water
Pet supplies, cage & lead
Devices, chargers & battery packs

If you're still looking for a Christmas present for the person-who-has-everything, then buy them a copy of our book 'History of DVBFB 1942-2020'. Or just add a piece of Darlington's rich history to your own book collection. Copies of the book are available at the Fire Station for $25.

We wish everyone in the Darlington community a Merry Christmas, a happy New Year, and a safe and prosperous 2025.

"For safety is not a gadget but a state of mind" ~ Eleanor Everet

Ricky Harvey

The Cook in the Hat
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GOT SOMETHING TO SELL?

A service like babysitting, handyman jobs, walking a dog or watering plants for someone travelling? Or that much-loved guitar that's not seeing any action? Or last year's school ballgown?

COST? Only $10 for four lines (40 words max). Special $5 rate for students.

It's easy: Email your classified by the 20th of the month to: business@darlingtonreview.com.au AND deposit $10 (BSB 633 000 Acc No: 158788273). Use your name and date of email as reference.

Classifieds with $$$ can also be placed in the Review box at Darlington Post Office.

GARDENING, rose pruning, weeding, mulching, whipper snipping, gutters cleaned, general tidy up and green waste tip runs. **Phone Geoff 0409 088 936.**

60+ DANCE CLASS, MONDAYS 9.30am Darlington Hall, cost $15. All welcome, no experience needed. **Contact Lynne 0409 520 023.**

FOR SALE: CUB CAMPERVAN: sleeps 6, large annexe, registration to October 2025, fridge/freezer, gas hob, 1991, good condition $3500. **TABLE TENNIS TABLE:** on rollers, V.G. condition. $100. **Phone 0427 226 835/**

WANTED TO BORROW THROUGH DECEMBER: a half and a quarter size guitars for visiting grandkids. If you can help please phone Trea on **9299 6080**

YOUR BODY WILL SAY 'THANK YOU' AFTER EVERY CLASS!: Maintaining core strength, flexability and balance is vital in ageing bodies, and these Hatha Yoga exercises have benefitted Darlington residents for decades. ANN's YOGA is now located in the cool comfort of Boya Community Centre with weekly classes on Tuesdays, 9.15 - 10.45 am. For more information give me a call on **0439 959 589**. Join us now or at the start of a new term on February 4, 2025. Make a New Year's Resolution you'll enjoy keeping.

Darlington Sports and Recreation Association Inc.

DaSRA AGM

DaSRA had its AGM on 20 November 2024. Bearing in mind the current proposal concerning the future of community representative organisations [mentioned in this Review] Geoff thanked everyone who had been involved over the last 8 years for their contributions.

The following were elected to the Committee for the next era.

Chairperson – Geoff Barker

Vice Chairperson – Colin James

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A SECRETARY – to be supported by retiring Cambell Giles

Treasurer – Lucien de Rooy

Committee – Gabby Houldsworth, Chris Arnold – two more members to be welcome.

Activities

DARLINGTON FILM: Pre-Production is advancing and we look forward to start interviewing early next year. If you have family short films that show Darlington people, places and events we would love to hear from you. Please contact Geoff Barker Geoffbarker52@gmail.com or 0418 953 176

BUY-A-BRICK: Only two SPECIAL Bricks remain – AT THE TOP OF THE WALL. Bids welcomed

OTHER PROJECTS: to be completed; NoiseBin, Water Fountain, Bin Store

Darlington Community Recreation Advisory Group (DCRAG)

At our recent delegates meeting Chris Arnold provided an update on his discussion at the DRRA AGM on proposed structure for Darlington community groups going forward. The revised structure envisages two entities with clearly defined complimentary functions in their Terms of Reference. Given current structures, the DRRA meeting considered it should possibly be entity 1, with entity 2 being the support group which has all the corporate knowledge and can action those items which come through DRRA, being the point of contact for all residents.

DCRAG delegates discussed this proposal and acknowledged DaSRA is currently undertaking the entity 2 functions. It was also agreed that our sporting groups should still have a means of meeting at least twice yearly with DRRA to discuss their requirements. It was agreed DCRAG should disband its organisation, allowing a two-entity process to be in place, to move forward with purpose.

Therefore, having been associated with this organization for some 44 years, I feel qualified to write DCRAG's "eulogy". Originally known as the Shire of Mundaring's Hall and Grounds Management Committee and later the Darlington Community Recreation and Management Committee, I joined in 1980 as the Fire Brigade representative, and became Chairman from 1982 to 2000, and continued as Secretary until now. Certainly many years, but it has been so worthwhile with what a group of like-minded people has been able to achieve for the community we live in.

Chair of DCRMC from 2004 till 2010 was Les Ayton, and it was his drive and ability to bring all sections of the community together that produced the first skate park and BMX track. This track at that time was voted the best in Perth and was regularly used by riders from far away. Unfortunately, as an A grade standard ride, many locals didn't ride it – until remediation works in 2015 saw the jumps lowered to a more acceptable height, and they were enjoyed by many. These have now been replaced by the Pump tracks.

David Earnshaw became chairman in 2011 through to 2018, and, under his guidance we saw the Community Pavilion project start, with all its complexities with State Government, Mundaring Shire and the community involved. This project had its beginning in September 2005 when a letter from the Junior Football Club to DCRMC noted the inadequate facilities at the oval and its poor condition. From this, discussions were held with Shire officers over a few years with David and delegates, and in 2012 a separate sub-committee under chair Cambell Giles commenced the project for a new pavilion and toilet and club room upgrades. Architects Leonie Matthews and Paul McDonald drew up concepts that were presented to community and a final design settled on.

Funding now became the key aspect and Geoff Barker joined the group in 2015, and as DCRMC was not Incorporated, the Darlington Sports and Recreation Advisory Group (DaSRA) was formed with Geoff as chair and Cambell Secretary (and what an amazing job they did to enable all finances to go through them for the build and operation of the new Community Pavilion building and upgrades, which opened in 2020).

Cr Trish Cook became chair in 2018, which continued until 2023, and a very energetic achiever she proved to be. The old Lower Oval has been transformed, new skate park and pump track, train carriage, Community Garden blooming and many other initiatives undertaken, as well as securing very significant Federal and State funding for these projects. In addition, the Community Bonfire, born out a suggestion from Mike Tooby to clean up the area, and the Tree Preservation project with Sheena Wheeler and Stacey August, and her list goes on.

I wish to also acknowledge Shane Purdy and Kirk Kitchen from the Shire for their assistance and support over all these years, and to Trea and the Review team……thank you.

Finally, I wish to thank all the association delegates, over the many years, I have had the immense pleasure to work with. Your contribution has made Darlington a very special place to live and enjoy. Thank you for making our Community so SPECIAL.

Colin James | 0419 969 223

Darlington Retirement Accommodation Association (DRAA)

Our AGM was held on site, Wednesday 23 October 2024. We had had a few committee members resign and put a call out to the community for volunteers. In true Darlington fashion the three vacancies were filled without the usual twisting of arms or bribery of good wine. Instead Carol Langdon became our new Secretary and Kevin Carthew and Sherene Strahan became committee members. Betty Pitcher remains our trusted Treasurer for the bazillionth year and yours truly is President.

As per the AGM textbook the AGM lasted all of 28 minutes which went over what was a relatively uneventful year, our strong financial position and the usual banter between residents. Afterwards we tucked into a fabulous afternoon tea that would have scored 10 out of 10 at any CWA event.

We are on the hunt for a new trailer, after our trusty one of many years when for a walk one night a few weeks back in the hands of someone or some people who did not have the right to be taking it from the property. That's right, our trailer was bloody stolen from the backyard of The Glen. What is the world coming to, and as my son Paddy said, "Who would do that to the Oldies?" Hopefully within a few weeks we will find a reasonably priced second hand one.

From everyone at "The Glen' we wish everyone in our community a wonderful Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

May 2025 bring joy and happiness.

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Save Perth Hills

Appeal Date 'Set' For North Stoneville Issue

Over the past couple of months there've been significant decisions, including the Federal Labor Government's outrageous 'Environmental' (EPBC) approval, in September. Broadly, Minister Tanya Plibersek's 'environmental approval' allow Australia's second biggest property group, Satterley, to bring in their bulldozers to destroy 60,000 healthy, mature and very old, habitat-supportive trees, and wipe out North Stoneville which is part of an internationally recognised, bio-diverse environment and a foraging, roosting and breeding site for our Endangered and Vulnerable Black Cockatoos.

BUT! IT'S NOT OVER YET!

That destruction can't happen until Satterley's long, drawn out, and publicly costly legal stoush, with our Community and the WA Planning Commission (WAPC), is finalised – with traffic and bushfire evacuation THE biggest roadblock to Satterley's outdated and inappropriate plan.

Since 1991 our Community has constantly rejected all versions of a North Stoneville townsite plan. The WAPC has rejected all of Satterley's plans since 2020.

Satterley has appealed against the WAPC rejections, and WA's State Tribunal (SAT) has now 'reserved' 3 weeks from November 3, 2025 to hear that appeal.

This December, Save Perth Hills will seek to 'intervene as an 'official party' so we can introduce our own witnesses, and evidence, at Satterley's appeal. SPH's application is an enormous piece of work for our Committee to pull together, against a system that doesn't traditionally support 'external' parties at the table. But we are committed to do this for our Community.

With two upcoming elections, State and Federal, we have the best opportunity in years to influence and achieve a safer and more environmentally sensitive outcome. Candidates from every major political side support Save Perth Hills and are publicly criticising the Government's EPBC decision, and Satterley for persisting with such an outdate and environmentally destructive plan in the face of ever-increasing scientific evidence of the risks of cramming 3,000+ people into a proven Extreme Bushfire Zone.

So our lawyers' fees are mounting and to be blunt – we need considerable financial support to keep this campaign alive for another year. We have fundraising plans ahead -but any amount our amazing Community can offer, goes a long way- to help Save Perth Hills!

Bendigo Bank Account - BSB 633 000 – 160715942.
Or your plastic bottles via Containers for Change: 'Save Perth Hills' 10307279.

Mundaring and Hills Historical Society

Fred Jacoby Park Oak Tree

It is not known who planted the acorn, or exactly when, however, we know the Oak Tree that stood in Fred Jacoby Park was at least 150 years old when it was damaged by a severe storm on Tuesday the 16th January 2024. In living memory, it always stood tall and proud, admired and loved by many.

A seat had been built around its base which proved to be not only practical but also allowed for many magical photographic moments. It is known that the locality was first taken up in 1834 by James Drummond the Swan Rivers Colony's first botanist. He had intended to develop a vineyard, but this venture proved unsuccessful, and he moved to Toodyay.

In 1884 Walter and Thomas Jecks were successful in developing an orchard and vineyard which was later sold to Frederick and Mathieson Jacoby in 1896, and then owned solely by Fred in 1899. Fred and Mathieson Jacoby were prominent figures in the development of Mundaring from the 1890s onwards. They bought several properties in the Mundaring area and built the first stage of the Mundaring Weir Hotel in 1898 when the building of the dam wall commenced.

The Jacoby Family History records that Fred "grew fruit trees, vegetables and daffodils, and also reared pigs and poultry for use at the Weir Hotel where he lived with his family for many years". When Fred Jacoby died in 1954 the parcel of land named 'Portagabra' comprising a cottage on about 28 acres (12 hectares) was bequeathed to his daughter Mrs Elfrida Devenish who in 1956 donated it to the Conservator of Forests to be known as Fred Jacoby Park, as a memorial arboretum for the purpose of education and recreation.

Oak Tree Fred Jacoby Park before storm

The substantial logs remaining after the tree was chopped down after the January storm, will be donated to local woodturning enthusiasts.

General Meeting to be held:
15th March 2025 at 2pm
Boya Community Centre, 135 Scott Street, Boya
Venue and Guest Speaker to be announced

Forrest Darlings CWA

Thank you to everyone who has supported our branch this year with a range of fundraising initiatives. We had a fantastic time at the Darlington Arts Festival with our cookie stall and raised almost $2000! We hope everyone enjoyed their treats as they took in all the festival fun.

We're finishing off our fundraising activities with a stall at the Mundaring Garden and Farmers Market on Saturday 14th December. Come and join us to choose from a range of delightful gift ideas.

Happy Birthday to us!

50 wonderful women gathered at the end of October to celebrate five years of our branch and 100 years of CWA of WA. Pictured are our oldest and youngest members, Sally and Amariah, cutting the cake.

About your CWA Forrest Darlings Branch

Forrest Darlings is a friendly branch of the Country Women's Association which meets monthly at Darlington Pavilion. Guests and non members always welcome. Our focus is shared between crafts, community and catering.

Next meeting:
Wednesday 15 January 2025 7pm,
Darlington Pavilion

For more information follow Forrest Darlings CWA on Facebook or call Treasurer Jen Woods 0417 173 478.

Darlington Arts Festival

Thank you Darlington!

What a fabulous turnout we had for this year's Festival! Estimated attendance figure is 20,000 plus which is a credit to the fantastic line up of entertainment, performances, the amazing artwork submitted, great weather and our wonderful community that turned up and enjoyed all that was on offer.

A big heartfelt thank you to our:

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The Darlington Club
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Provincial – Real Estate
Daisy Pool Covers
Mahogany Inn and Distillery
The Rural Building Co
Mundaring Bicentennial Scholarship Trust
Bendigo bank

…and our many Festival Supporters (full listing on our Facebook page.)

Darlington Arts Festival relies on grants, sponsorships, donations and fundraising events. Donations of any amount are very welcome, at any time in the year and you can even throw us a monthly or annual donation to set and forget! Help us keep this fabulous festival free and thriving by donating today https://www.darlingtonartsfestival.com/support/donate/

10 minutes or two hours?

We would love you to join us next year as a volunteer! We need your help! A few minutes or a few hours- let us know what you can spare. Register to be a volunteer at next year's festival through our easy web form https://www.darlingtonartsfestival.com/participate/volunteer/

See you at the 2025 Darlington Arts Festival!

Discovering the History of the Perth Observatory

Arthur Harvey's talk provided fascinating insights into the history of the Perth Observatory, which was originally founded in 1896. This initiative was made possible when John Forrest allocated £3,000—a significant sum for the colony at the time—to build the West Perth Observatory. However, the costs eventually blew out to at least double the initial estimate.

The observatory's first Government Astronomer, William Ernst Cooke, played a crucial role in its establishment, including the acquisition of key equipment like the Meridian Telescope, which was used to determine accurate time. Until its installation, and use Perth's time could vary by up to half an hour. The Meridian

Telescope revolutionised timekeeping, supported by two Kullberg long-case grandfather clocks made in 1897, which are still operational today and remarkably accurate to within one second per week—even after 120 years.Timekeeping was so significant that it was announced daily with a cannon fired in Fremantle, allowing ships to synchronise their clocks. The observatory's technological advancements continued with the acquisition of a double telescope, built by the French in the early 20th century, which enabled the observatory to take only two photographs of the night sky each night. A landmark moment came in 1922, when the Perth Observatory contributed to proving Einstein's Theory of General Relativity through an expedition to Wallal during a solar eclipse. By 1965, urban expansion necessitated the observatory's relocation to Bickley, where it continues to operate. The Perth Observatory has achieved numerous milestones, including housing Western Australia's first digital camera in the 1970s, the discovery of exoplanets, co-discovering Uranus's ring system, and preserving rare treasures such as the Atlas Coelestis and a piece of the Mundrabilla iron meteorite. Today, the observatory is run entirely by dedicated volunteers and offers visitors an opportunity to enjoy knowledgeable guided tours. This evening now marks the conclusion of our Guest Speaker program for the year. None of this would have been possible without the dedication and commitment of Lyn Myles, who has worked tirelessly to make this program a success. Thank you, Lyn, for your hard work and passion – we deeply appreciate your efforts. We now look forward to someone else stepping into this important role in the coming year.

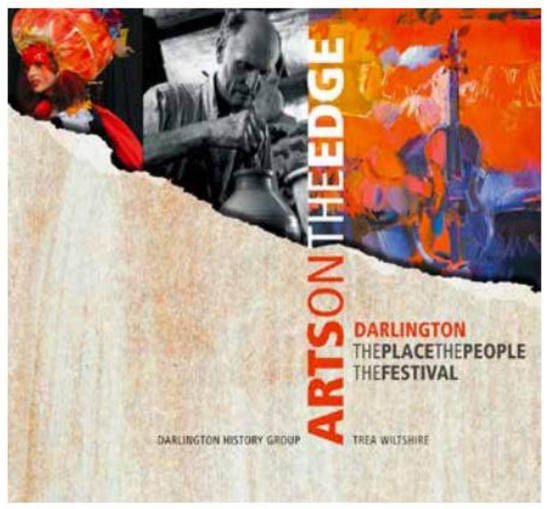
Shire Presidents Sundowner

Both our Chair, Val Sheill, and Vice Chair, Cliff Burns, had the privilege of attending the Shire President's Sundowner recently. This special event celebrated the many organisations that contribute vital services to our community.

It was a delightful and informal evening, and we were amazed by the large turnout, showcasing the wide range of services based in Mundaring.

We extend our congratulations to the Shire President for hosting such a successful event that brought so many people together.

Looking for the Perfect Christmas Present? We've Got You Covered with Arts on the Edge



This Christmas, give a gift that celebrates creativity, culture, and community. Our most recent publication, Arts on the Edge by Trea Wiltshire, is the perfect choice for anyone who cherishes the arts and the rich history of Darlington. Priced at just $35.00, this 128-page book is beautifully illustrated and belongs on every coffee table. Arts on the Edge takes readers on a journey through the lives of past artists and residents who have shaped Darlington's vibrant cultural reputation.The book highlights the evolution of the Darlington Arts Festival, from its early days to its current role as a creative hub for music, theatre, and the visual arts. With captivating storytelling by Trea Wiltshire and stunning design by Mich Lee, this publication is both a tribute to the past and a celebration of the present. Copies can be purchased at The Nook, Darlington Post Office, Darlington Liquor Store or at the Visitors Centre Mundaring. Or contact us directly - 0408 956 692 to get a copy delivered to your door for Darlington residents.

Whats in a Name? Well a Lot Actually…

The Darlington History Group (DHG) proposed two names for the new subdivision on Victor Road: Prater, after the original family who owned the land for over 60 years, and Lorella, the name of the first house built on the property around 1922. The developer considered our suggestions, and as a result, the estate has been named "Praters Farm Estate," with "Praters Rise" now officially gazetted as a new street in Darlington. Curious about the history of Praters Farm? You can find it on our website, along with many other fascinating stories about our local history.

DAF Store was a Success!

Our stall at the Darlington Arts Festival had an exceptional outcome, achieving our best results yet!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who generously donated bric-a-brac and items for our store, as well as those who visited over the weekend to support us by purchasing our book publications, plants, framed prints, trinkets, and an assortment of goods.

Thank you also to our committee members and friends who worked tirelessly behind the scenes - collecting, washing, and storing goods in the lead-up to the event and to those who volunteered their time to help manage and run the stall throughout the weekend.

Your incredible support means so much, and we truly appreciate each and every one of you for helping make this event such a success!

DHG would like to wish everyone a safe Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

What's on at the Hub of the Hills for over 55's in December

Christmas Lunch at The Hub | Saturday 7 December | 12pm to 2pm

Tickets are $25 each and bookings and ticket purchase is essential - contact Rachael on the days and times listed below to buy a ticket.

Weekly activities at The Hub over the Christmas period

Coffee Morning	finishes 10 December	resumes 4 February
Mah Jong	finishes 10 December	resumes 14 January
Craft Group	finishes 12 December	resumes 6 February
Scrabble & Rummikub	finishes 12 December	resumes 6 February
Cryptic Crosswords	finishes 12 December	resumes 6 February
Gadgets & Gizmos	finishes 12 December	resumes 6 February
Bolivia	finishes 19 December	resumes 16 January
Open Eyed Meditation	finishes 13 December	resumes 7 February
Seniors Drop-In	finishes 11 December	resumes 5 February

The Hub will be closed from 23 December to 10 January 2025.

Shire of MUNDARING

The Hub of the Hills, 8 Craig Street, Mundaring
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Darlington Social Cricket Club

New Members Welcome

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Making Cricket Great Again

One of the surprising pleasures about the inevitable march into mid-life sporting mediocrity is that one's personal standards for greatness diminish year-on-year. A one-handed catch that might have been routine in your early 30s is now met with Wonka-level wondrousness, and practically any shot played off the front foot these days becomes a 'bravo' moment celebrated by the bespittled ex-player gentry leaning on the clubroom bar. Lo and behold anything so audacious and coordinated as a reflexive caught and bowled (even if it is only an act of self-defence) is met with veneration befitting an '80s royal wedding.

And so it is at Darlington Social Cricket Club; through our collective age, mutual folly and an almost imperceptible week-on-week deterioration of our occipital lobes, we have made cricket great again.

Our newly found greatness has been on display over the last 4 weeks to all who don't mind a drink at the DSCC bar on game day. Stu Aldred struck a mighty blow to mid-wicket and was applauded (without satire) by his team mates for completing two runs before it pulled up just short of the boundary and was returned to mid-pitch by a man with no shoulder. Cam Giles' outside edges to the shortest straight boundary in the Southern hemisphere (a Darlington specialty shot that has yielded more runs than unrefrigerated chicken), continue to be routinely applauded despite their regularity, and Captain Mick O'Reilly making it almost all the way to the pitch to commence his innings with characteristic authority before realising that he had failed to bring his bat with him, were some of the lesser 'great' highlights.

And then there were the truly great moments – DSCC debutant Ray McDonnell nailing two prized wickets against St John of God in his first over for the club was a real highlight, as was the first innings of another debutant, Alex Jones, who was sent in to open the batting against the Darlington Junior Football Club after complaining that he hadn't faced a ball in 20 years, only to be retired to the pavilion after slashing a semi-chanceless 50 runs against some semi-quality opposition (and then repeated the feat the following week – welcome to the club Alex!).

But the height of greatness this past month was watching a normally demure and reserved Steve 'the lesser' Durkin reaching his 50 against the zippy-but-strangely-less-effective-than-it should-be bowling of his brother Nigel. After being hopelessly outclassed by the genuinely talented bowling of Jamie Lathwell (another new DSCC recruit – there is a theme here….), Steve reached his 50 milestone facing Nigel's comparatively sloggable nude nuts, and with one ball to face before his requisite retirement from the crease declared to all within listening distance "I haven't even hit a six yet". Steve then almost knocked over the big pine tree on Pine Terrace with his final grunty heft off of a dejected Nigel's last ball, before dancing off the pitch like an elf on the shelf who had just discovered the liquor cabinet. Great.

If you think you've got a moment or two of greatness like this in you, pop on down to the club on any game day to introduce yourself and have a beer one weekend, or alternately, ring our edgy club secretary, Cam Giles, on 0418 936 544. New members are always welcome at this truly great club.

Dastardly traitor but otherwise good guy, Tim Bates, once again fleeces a hapless DSCC XI (led by Cap'n Mick, also pictured) with his merry band of ex-cricketing semi-professionals from St John of God Hospital.

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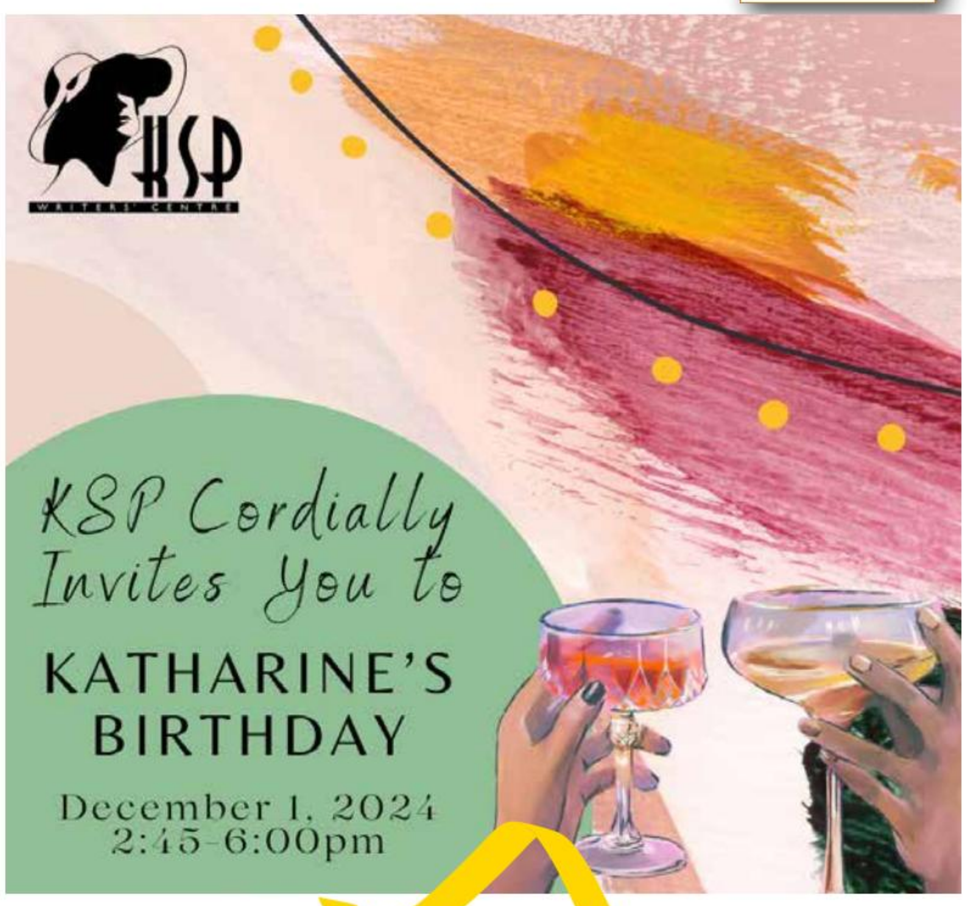
Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers' Centre

A FREE Event: Katharine's Birthday:

Sunday, December 1 (2:45-6:00 PM)

Celebrate with us at the beautiful KSP Writers' Centre in the Perth Hills for a fun-filled afternoon in honour of Katharine Susannah Prichard's birthday! The festivities kick off at 3 PM with a Welcome to Country ceremony and an address from special guests. The highlight of the day: the announcement of the 2024 Short Stories and Poetry competition winners! We'll hear select readings from the talented winners and shortlisted writers. Plus, Nathan Hobby, author of *The Red Witch: Biography of Katharine Susannah Prichard*, will be leading a special tour of the Centre, sharing fascinating insights about Katharine's life and legacy. All throughout the afternoon, enjoy delicious drinks and nibbles from the KSP Cafe, including a cheeky glass of wine – the perfect way to mingle, celebrate, and soak in the creative atmosphere.



2025 Spooky and Horror Stories Competition

is now open for submissions

Deadline to submit: 13 March 2025

Are you ready to explore the eerie depths of fear? Spooky & horror story competition theme is "The Call." What haunting secrets lie behind a late-night ring? Is it a warning from the beyond, a plea for help, or a sinister voice beckoning you into the darkness? Whether it's a ghostly encounter, a psychological thriller, or a twisted tale of obsession, we want to hear your spinetingling stories. Get ready to answer The Call and show us what scares you most!

For more information on our residencies, competitions or other activities please visit the KSP website www.kspwriterscentre.com or phone 9294 1872. KSP Writers' Centre is proudly sponsored by the Shire of Mundaring.

HOSCA

The October school holidays were a blast. We enjoyed a High Tea, raising money for the MND foundation, we proudly raised approximately $180. The children's request for a PJ day made for a fabulous day, there were so many experiences to be had while relaxing in our pajamas, Our Educator Alli experimented making Lip balms with the children, they were very successful and our lips felt fantastic, nails were painted, and hair beautified.

We have had some plants donated to Hosca which were planted into our garden by Fiona and the children, the children are very talented at choosing the best spots. The children used their prior knowledge to build some garden terrariums using recycled jars and cuttings from our garden, the children were very creative. These were sold at the Darlington arts festival along with mystery jars and the money raised was used in a "pay it forward" activity as Hosca children shared envelopes with kind words and cash within our community, it was such a wonderful experience.

The Hosca children enjoyed the Darlington Community Garden nature play day and shared their wisdom of making popcorn on the firepit, there were many conversations and stories being told, and of course the popcorn was very popular.

Amelia ran a holiday paint class which was a hit with all children who participated. We painted emus in bright colors with funky hair styles. HOSCA children are super talented indeed.

The children love exploring the nature reserve behind Hosca seeking out insects and identifying what they could see. Nature walks are great for mind stimulation and regulation and having a sense of belonging.

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The Darlington Club

This year is just flying, and Christmas is just around the corner. We are looking forward to our Christmas party on the 13th December. Come along, bring a friend and enjoy the festivities.

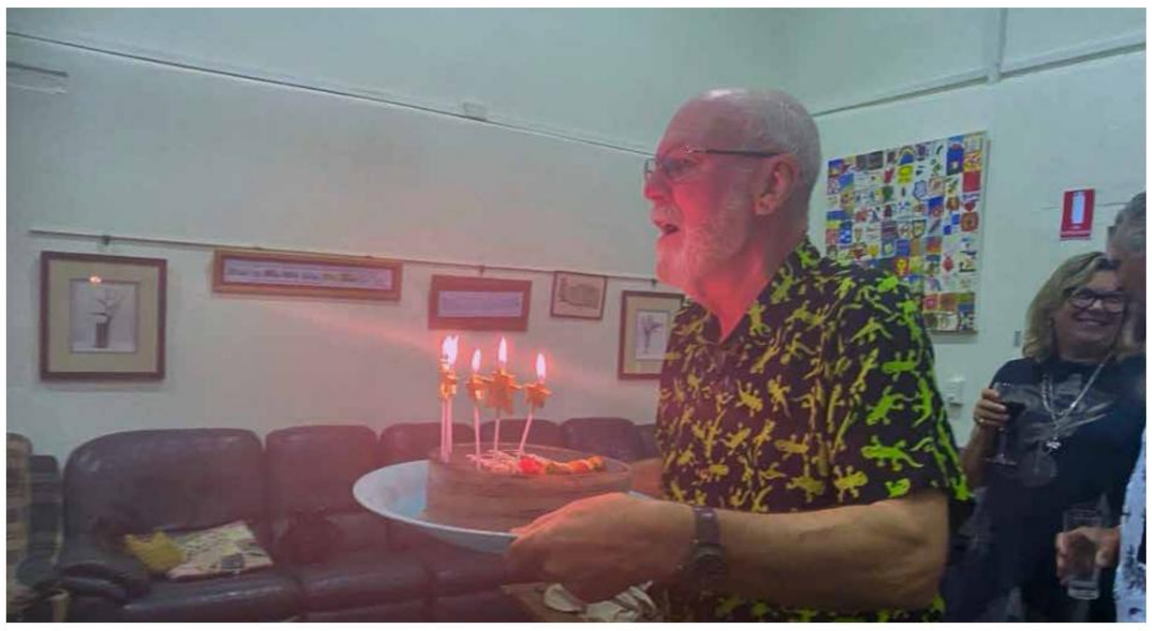
We would like to thank all our helpers with moving the furniture in and out for the Arts festival. It makes it so easy when we have lots of helpers. Especially the young, strong ones.

2025 is just around the corner, so lets enjoy bbq's, quiz and music nights together. It's a relaxing way to catch up with friends for a drink and a chat.

Looking forward to seeing you all on our Friday nights.

Fees to join are $20 per person or $40 for two or family. Payee The Darlington Club Inc. BSB 633 000, Account 124527748. Reference Surname and Subs.

Sue Bennetts, Club Secretary | 0407 920 930



Coming Events

The Club opens at 6.30pm every second Friday at Darlington Lesser Hall. BYO drinks and nibbles.

December 13 Christmas Party

Details will be updated in the weekly Newsletter

Contact Sue on 0439 273 213 or email susanlavell10@gmail.com or Sue Bennetts, Secretary on 0407 920 930 email garrysue24@iinet.net.au

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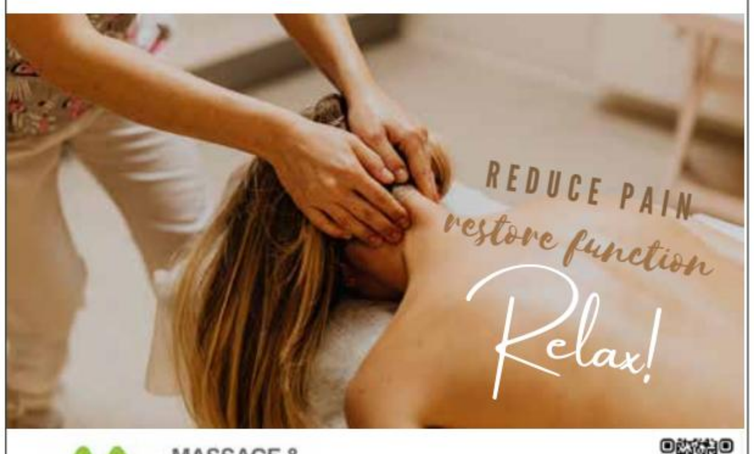

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8062 | midlandjunctionartscentre.com.au
Tues - Fri10am - 5pm, Sat11am - 3pm | closed Mon and Public Holidays

This December, MJAC celebrates excellence in design, architectural heritage and connection to place as we showcase old and new works from over forty WA artists.

Honouring the conclusion of a two-year heritage renovation, MJAC reflects on what has come before in Building Fabric. On display in the East Gallery, this exhibition features a collection of works from artists with long-term ties to the Midland region. Complemented by historical information and key works from the City of Swan Art Collection, it tells the story of Midland Junction's rich history as a landmark of industry and learning.

In contrast, Interior is an opportunity to explore a diverse collection of artwares and design objects celebrating the beauty of how we adorn our homes while championing the importance of supporting the handcrafted market and fostering sustainability for our artists. These artists excel in their mastery of materials, form, and functionality. They transform raw, traditional applications, found, and industrial fabrications into beautiful objects that enhance our everyday lives.

Top left: Nigel Hewitt, The Junction, *1995, mixed media on paper mounted on calico covered board. Image courtesy City of Swan Collection.*

Top right: KA:KE (Kate Rae and Kerry O'Flaherty), Mobile 02, *mixed media. Image courtesy of the artists.*

WHAT'S ON NOW

Building Fabric | till 16 February 2025

Interior | till 16 February 2025

Please visit our website or scan the QR code for a full list of creative workshops and public program details and to book.
midlandjunctionartscentre.com.au

MUNDARING ARTS CENTRE

Mundaring Arts Centre | 7190 Great Eastern Hwy (corner Nichol Street)
9295 3991 | mundaringartscentre.com.au
Tues - Fri 10am - 5pm, Sat and Sun 11am - 3pm | closed Mon and Public Holidays

Continuing this month we celebrate the unlikely but joyful pairing of art and sport. Half Time, curated by Amber Norrish, offers you a footy fix this off season. Exploring AFL culture through sculpture, installation, painting and photography, this collection shines a light on the ritual, lore, love and sometimes complicated culture of Australia's national sport.

Following the WFDF World Team Disc Golf Championships, held in Mundaring last month (in which Australia took home the silver medal), MAC and the Mundaring Sporting Club continue the celebration with On Par. Showcasing a collection of works utilising the golf disc, this whimsical and colourful exhibition is a joy to behold. Check out the complementary workshop program and learn innovative and experimental synthetic dye techniques with our established disc artists.

WHAT'S ON NOW

HALF TIME | Exploring Australian Football Culture |
till 2 Feb 2025

ON PAR | till 22 Dec 2024

As the festive season arrives, the MAC shop celebrates our WA makers and artists with a selection of beautiful art objects, offering contemporary jewellery, ceramics, textiles, glass, wood, art and illustrated children's books, cards, paintings, prints and sculpture available in store and online. Perfect for gifting.

Left: Visitors enjoy Half Time *opening night. Photo by Rebecca De Vries.*

Top right: Dimity Gregson, 2nd, *2024, fabric, golf disc. Photo by Rebecca De Vries.*

Please visit our website or scan the QR code for workshop and public program details and to book.
mundaringartscentre.com.au

Darlington Dibbler Girl Guides

Inspiring girls to develop leadership skills and make positive contributions to their community

The Darlington Dibbler Girl Guides participated in their annual Halloween Food drive. We were very thankful to the residents of Darlington who donated non perishable food items to our drive. We were able to make up around 9 bags which were donated to the Midland Accension Hall Hamper Program and Swan City Youth Centre.

We enjoyed running a craft station at the DAF, flowers were crafted from reused wrapping paper and bound to the tennis courts fence.

The Girl Guides have also been busy collecting stationary to donate to Radio Lollypop and to celebrate World Kindness Day we dropped positive affirmation notes and vegetable seeds in the random letterboxes around our houses.

We are very much looking forward to our Presentation Night. The families are invited to celebrate the fun year we have had at Guides and watch their girls be presented with badges and our Lend a Hand Shield and Kinka Community Award. We then finish the year off with a Pool Party at Bilgomen.

We welcome new girls aged from 7-12 years. We meet at Kathleen Skipsey Hall – on Glen Road, Darlington on Tuesdays from 6pm to 7.30pm during the school term. If you have any queries regarding Darlington Dibbler Girl Guides please contact Karen on 0403233907 or enquire at Girl Guides WA.

Glen Forrest Bridge Club (GFBC)

Jingle bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way! Where to? Glen Forest Bridge Club of course. Why? To give yourself some gifts of course; the gift of a lifetime of the pleasure of playing, the gift of socialising and making new friends, the gift of brain stimulation, the gift of satisfaction when securing and or making your contract, the gift of teaching Grandchildren. Maybe even the gift of fulfilling a New Year's Resolution if you have been threatening yourself with learning or playing bridge.

As New Year rolls round people often think of making New Years Resolutions. If you have been thinking of joining the Glen Forest Bridge club, the New Year would be a great time. So often we think of doing things but put them off. Some of our new members have said how they thought about joining for quite a long time before they finally turned up or made the phoned call.

Bridge is such an interesting game; no two hands of cards are the same. People often think of bridge being just for older people, but it's a great game for younger people as well. I heard the other day that two of our members are teaching a grandson and his girlfriend to play. What a lovely gift to these young people, because Bridge is a game for life which makes it a long-term interest.

Glen Forest club is conveniently located in McGlew Road, in Glen Forest. We are a very friendly club and welcome experienced players as well as beginners. Make that New Years Resolution happen and come join us. Have a happy and healthy Christmas.

Regular sessions are held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, learners/social session Wednesday morning.

Ring Ronnie 0419 961 711 or look us up at glenforrest.bridgeaustralia.org.

A Year in Review

A reflection of the year that was, with lots of fun and adventures on the way. Darlington Scout Group has continued to grow our numbers, welcoming new members, and seeing growth and development of those who continue their journey into new sections.

So many activities throughout the year that our group planned and organised:

- Camps at Honeypool Pool, Pelican Point and Manjedal Activity Centre
- Attending ANZAC and Remembrance Day services at Blackboy Hill
- Snorkelling at Rottnest Island
- Day hikes in the district including John Forrest National Park, Mundaring Weir and Piesse Brook
- Overnight bike hike
- Indoor rock climbing and bouldering
- Visits to Glen Forrest fire station and Swan SES
- Kayaking, aquatics and safety skills training
- Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre

We attended a Scouts WA events, joining in with others from all around the state:

- Nighthawk overnight orienteering for Scouts
- Mission Impossible 2 day rogaining for Scouts and Venturers
- Maali Medal scouting skills challenge
- Swantiki rafting expedition for Cubs and Scouts
- A Day at the Zoo for Venturers
- Venturer Ball

And in the community, the group has assisted with rubbish collection and recycling at the Darlington Arts Festival, a cake stall at the Darlington Community Garage Sale, and will be sausage sizzling once again at the Glen Forrest Community Carols Service on 23rd December.

All of these activities happen thanks to our fantastic and dedicated volunteer leaders and support committee, and a big thanks to all of them. Critical to the success of what we do in Scouting are our volunteers and the many different areas they volunteer their time to support Scouts in their journey.

Thank you to our supporters.

Shire of Mundaring for their support through helping us with access to the internet this year, and their grants program

Bendigo Bank Mundaring branch for their support with grants towards Australian Jamboree and hall improvements, plus the community raffle that helps all volunteer groups in the community.

Darlington Scouts are open to boys and girls, comprising four sections:

• Joey Scouts	(age 5-8)	Monday
• Cub Scouts	(age 8-11)	Wednesday
• Scouts	(age 11-14)	Thursday
• Venturer Scouts	(age 14-18)	Friday

For information contact membership@darlingtonscouts.com, send a message via the Darlington Scout Group Facebook page. We follow school terms, so we will be on a break from mid December to end of January 2025.

Darlington Venturers also have their own Instagram page, so if you are over 14, and interested if what they do, please look them up: @darlingtonventurers

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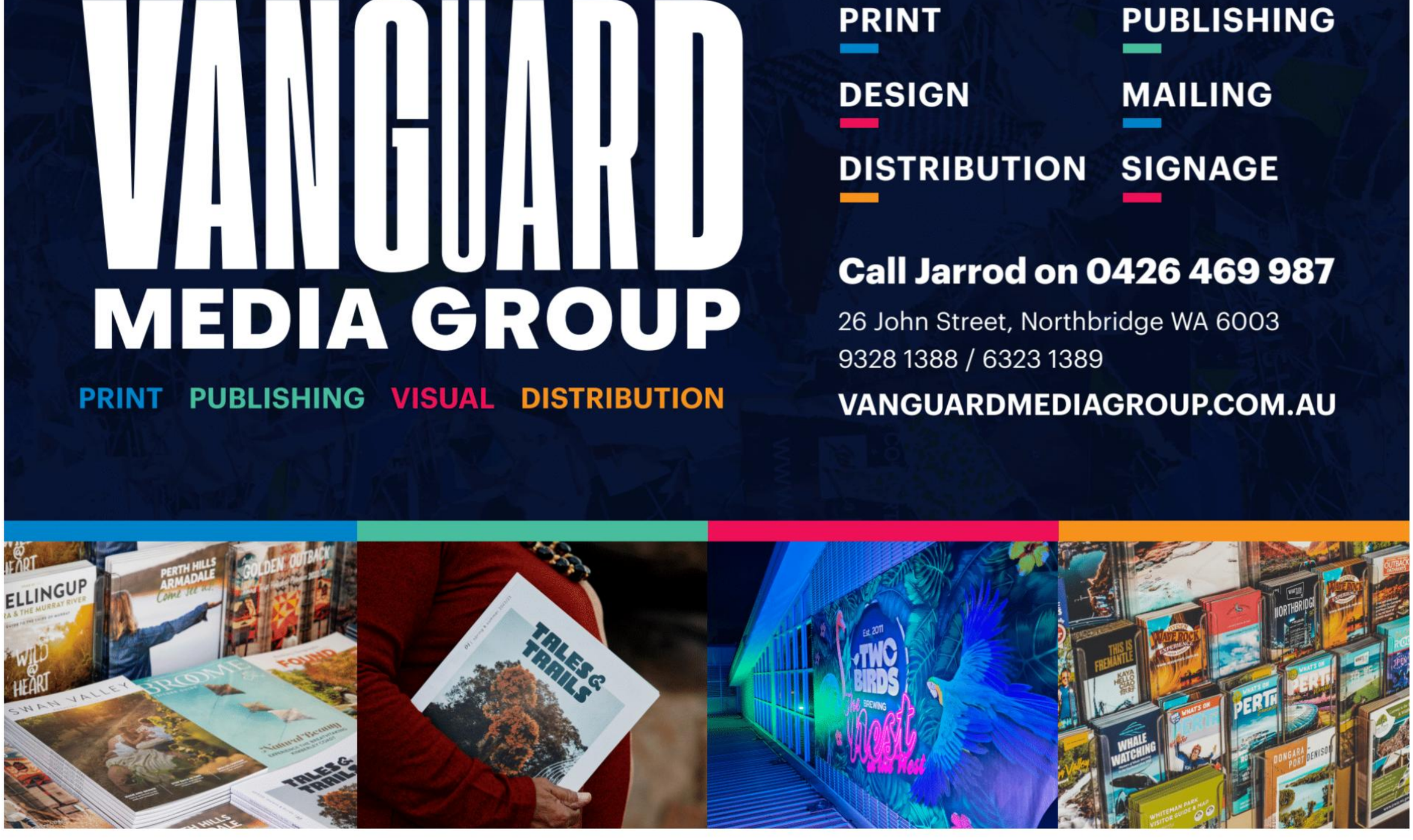


Christmas Hamper Donations for Families in Need Welcomed

Midvale Hub Parenting Service Perth North East is collecting donations of food to make up Christmas hampers for families in need. There are donation baskets at both Mundaring and Boya Libraries. If you can spare something, it would be most appreciated. Items to consider donating:

- long-life milk, cream, custard
- tea, coffee
- juice, cordial, soft drink
- canned fruit and vegetables
- biscuits, shortbread, gingerbread
- fruit mince pies, Christmas cake, puddings
- dried fruit and nuts
- chips, pretzels, popcorn, jelly
- chocolates, lollies, candy canes

Donations can be dropped off at the libraries until Monday 9 December.

Home Services

Did you know our libraries offer a free home delivery service to library members living in the Shire of Mundaring who are unable to visit the libraries due to mobility or illness?

The service can be provided on a temporary or permanent basis. You may be recuperating from an operation or illness for a short time, or you may have long-term mobility and other reasons which mean the service is required on a permanent basis.

Once you are signed up for the service, volunteers and staff will select items based on your interests and deliver them to your door.

If you would like to know more, or would like help with applying for the service, contact the libraries.

Mundaring Library:
T: 9290 6780 | E: mills@mundaring.wa.gov.au

Boya Library: T: 9290 6755 | E: gills@mundaring.wa.gov.au

Online Books, TV Shows, Music, and more

Do you know that Shire of Mundaring Libraries offers free access to eResources for library members? You can access free online books, TV shows, films, comics, audiobooks, music, and magazines at any time. Shire of Mundaring residents who do not have a library card can join online to access digital resources without having to visit the library.

- **Libby app (by Overdrive)** – free digital books, audiobooks, and hundreds of digital magazines.
- **Overdrive** – free digital books, magazines and audiobooks which can be enjoyed via a web browser.
- **Borrowbox** – digital books, audiobooks and magazines which can be enjoyed via computer or mobile device (download the app for mobile devices).
- **Kanopy/Kanopy Kids** – a large collection of indie films, classic cinema, and festival and educational video.
- **Hoopladigital** – enjoy audiobooks, eBooks, comics, movies, TV, magazines, or music everywhere you have a screen.
- **Storybox Library** – children can enjoy story time any time as they listen and watch Australian children's books read by engaging storytellers.
- **Busythings** – hundreds of fun online educational activities for children aged 3-11 years.
- **LOTE4Kids** – an online database of digital books in world languages allowing kids to enjoy the magic of books in LOTE (languages other than English) including over 4,500 picture books in more than 70 languages.

Visit the libraries' eResources page on the Shire of Mundaring website at https://bit.ly/SOMeLib to find out more and for links to the different platforms. Perfect for the holidays!

Joining the Libraries Online

You can join online to access the libraries' digital resources without having to visit the libraries. You need to 16 years and over, and a resident of Western Australia. If you wish to borrow physical items, you can still join online and then visit the library to provide proof of name and address and collect your library card.
Join online by scanning the QR code or go to https://bit.ly_MUNJoin

Baby Rhyme Time and Story Time dates

The last Baby Rhyme Time and Story Time at the libraries will be on Friday 13 December. Sessions recommence on Wednesday 5 February 2025.

Library News

Stay informed about library events, news and programs by signing up to receive email notifications at https://bit.ly/MUNlibnews

Library Opening Hours over Christmas/ New Year

The Shire of Mundaring Libraries will close at 12pm on Friday 13 December and reopen at 9am on Saturday 14 December.

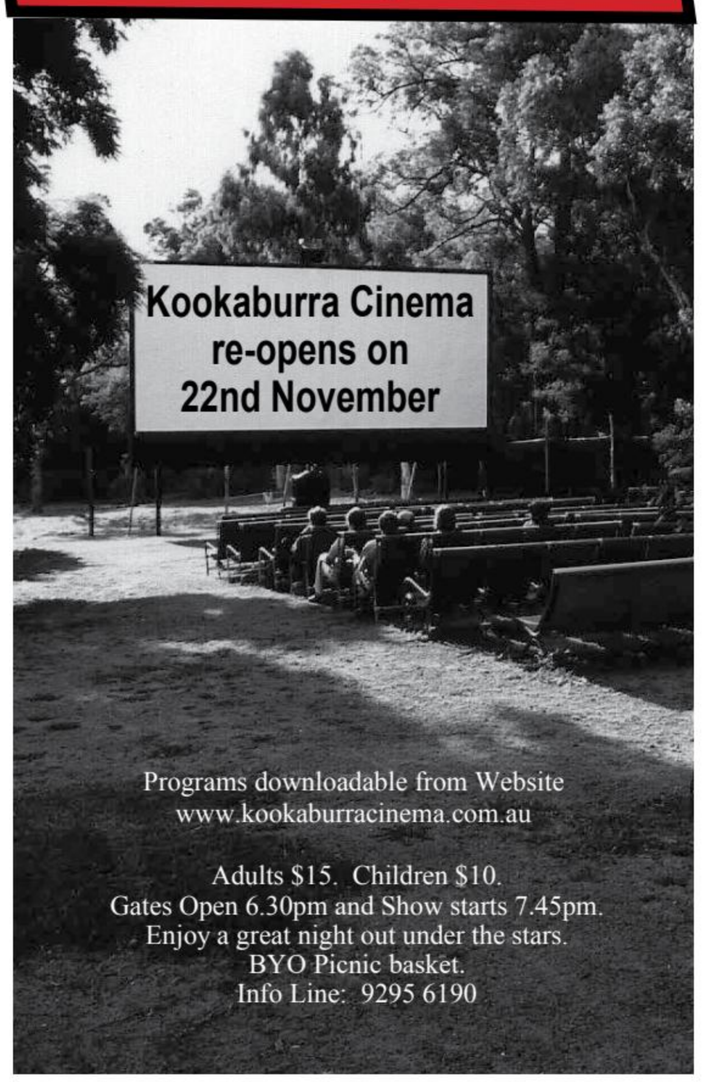
The libraries will close for Christmas/New Year from 5pm Tuesday 24 December and reopen at 9am on Thursday 2 January 2025.

We wish you all a safe and happy festive season.

Kookaburra Cinema

Kookaburra Outdoor Cinema

Allen Rd,
Mundaring Weir



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2024: The Season That Was

Another theatrical year has passed and it has been another incredibly successful year for the Darlington Theatre Players at Marloo Theatre. Four amazingly unique seasons have been performed at the theatre, all driven by a small army of volunteer performers, creatives and assistants.

Newsies Jr.

The year commenced in February with a bang with the youth of our theatre taking centre stage for an exhilarating production of the Alan Menken, Jack Feldman and Harvey Fierstein musical 'Newsies Jr.'. Centred around the real life events of the 1899 Newsboy paper strike, the musical was directed by Rachel Vonk with assistant direction by Oniesha Ludlow. The show featured a talented live band under the direction of Chris McRae and stunning vocals under the direction of Rebecca McRae. The choreography was suitably exhilarating with toe tapping numbers by Michelle Ezzy. The entirely youth cast sung and danced their way through this highly entertaining show against the backdrop of a multi-storey set from Peter 'Pear' Carr which looked like something straight out of New York City. The show was a smash hit with audiences of all ages

Young Frankenstein

The musical theme continued as we reached the winter months with the spectacular that was 'Young Frankenstein' electrifying the stage in July. Directed by Terence Smith with musical direction by Tara Oorjitham and Choreography by Sophie David and Ebony Uetake. With a highly talented adult cast, the Mel Brooks musical was an absolute crowd pleaser and featured a large ensemble cast, supremely talented creative team and stunning 17 piece orchestra. The show could only be described as a spectacle set against a brilliantly designed and created gothic inspired set by Aaron Lucas and was a special project for the Darlington Theatre Players and for all involved.

One Act Season

This year, the decision was made to increase Marloo's One Act Season from five shows to eight and that decision proved a triumph with this year's season. Featured on the bill were both debut and experienced directors and everything from classic comedy to fresh scripts. 'Bittersweet Lullaby' was a poignant two-hander musical directed by Kieran Ridgway and choreographed by Breanne Lucas which was a beautiful exploration of the power of music. 'Red House Monster' provided some eerie thrills with a spooky story and tense atmosphere. Debut directors Georgia Stidwell and Brianna Thompson produced a wonderful show with the assistance of Marloo mentor Luke Miller. 'Cut' which was also directed by a debutant in Harrison Ricci was a mile-a-minute theatre set comedy which provided laughs from start to finish. Rounding out the bill was an absolute classic from DTP Life Member Ray Egan, the hilarious cult comedy 'Dinner for One'. The hysterical farce rounded out a truly wonderful bill. A brilliant season with something for everyone, the One Acts proved that the format is well and truly alive at Marloo Theatre.

Mother Goose on the Loose

Most recently, Marloo Theatre presented an all original pantomime to round out the 2024 theatrical year. 'Mother Goose On The Loose' was both written and directed by Taneal Thompson with Musical Direction from Rebecca McRae and Choreography by Sophie David, Kira Impson, Camigwen Glossop, Lizzie Baker and Sienna Stidwell. Based on the classic children's nursery rhymes from Mother Goose, this family delight had all the tropes of a classic pantomime with some wonderful characters, toe tapping song and dance numbers and an incredible storybook inspired set by Amanda, Steve and Zac Moloney. With the energetic cast lapping up the audience interaction from the first curtain to the final bows, the pantomime was a brilliantly fun way to round out the year.

We would like to wish everyone in the Darlington Theatre Players community a wonderful festive season and a safe and happy new year. We thank you for joining us at the theatre and can't wait to bring you some wonderful productions in 2025!

Photo Credits: Sean Breadsell and Rebecca McRae.

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Perth Hills EVENTS

St Cuthbert's Anglican Church
cnr Darlington Rd and Hillsden Rd, Darlington

WORSHIP IN THE STYLE OF TAIZE: SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 6.30PM

Enjoy chant, meditation and scripture in a candlelit church while you unwind, calm down and connect with what really matters before the Christmas rush.
NB There will be no Taize service in January. Join us again on 2 February 2025

THE MAINLY MUSIC CHRISTMAS PARTY: TUESDAY 3 DEC@ 9.30AM

This is the final session of Mainly Music for 2024 but we're sure to see many of you again in February 2025. Come along and celebrate the Christmas season with songs, presents and festive food.

6 ways to celebrate Christmas at St Cuthberts this year

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER, 7.30PM

Beginning with Once in Royal David's City, this traditional liturgy follows the Christmas story in scripture and song. Singing classic carols and choral items, the service culminates with O Come All Ye Faithful, and is followed by a champagne supper. Mark the date in your diary for this iconic Christmas event!

MIDNIGHT MASS (sung Holy Communion with carols) on Tuesday 24 December @11.30pm

A joyful and uplifting service service that is celebrated as Christmas Eve gives way to Christmas Day in a jubilant celebration honouring the birth of Jesus.

CHRISTMAS MORNING (Holy Communion with carols) on Wednesday 25 December @9am

If you are a family with young children this might be an opportunity to put aside the present unwrapping frenzy and find time to reflect and refocus. While the adults and older children are in the service, younger children will have the opportunity to have their own "church" with a story, craft and music in the Godly Play room. Something for everyone! If you need more information please email Michelle at **mandm6@bigpond.com**

DONATE TO THE CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL: the bowl will be placed outside at Nine Lessons and Carols, Midnight Mass and the Sunday morning service.

As Christmas draws closer, we are reminded that many communities face devastating hardships and need the resassurance of our support. The Christmas Bowl provides an opportunity to reflect God's love and extend hope to neighbours near and far. This year we are aiming to raise $1000 for this worthy cause and we hope you will join us in reaching this goal. The bowl will be placed outside for those who give cash or you may donate using our EFTPOS machine - but please remember to email Mike Watson at **treasurer@hillsanglicans.com** so your donation is allocated to the Christmas Bowl appeal.

Darlington Primary School

Learning Outside the classroom at Darlington Primary School

Every student at Darlington Primary School has the opportunity to learn outside the walls of the classroom with excursions to a variety of places to add to the richness of the learning program at the school.

Our youngest ones, recently ventured out to Kings Park to learn more about our environment. Every summer our urban bushland is under the threat of fire and through an interactive story about a real bushfire in Kings Park they learnt through the eyes of Tawny Frogmouth, how plants and animals cope after a fire. And a special guest appearance from a Kings Park firefighter added to the excitement of the day.

Recycling is becoming engrained from an early age and our Year 3 students recently visited the Red Hill Waste Centre to see firsthand where our rubbish ends up, they learned the correct ways to dispose of waste, how to pack a waste-free lunch, and the impact of rubbish on the environment. An interactive experience, emphasised the importance of proper waste disposal, waste reduction, recycling, sustainability, and recovering resources, to help prepare our students to become responsible citizens in protecting our environment.

During Humanities and Social Science lessons students in Year 2 have been exploring about *The Past in the Present*. Students have been investigating how living conditions and lifestyles differed in the past, in particular the impact of changing technologies on people's lives. Visiting a local historical site allows students to understand concepts of continuity and change, cause and effect, perspective, empathy and significance. Staying in the glorious hills, the excursions to Mundaring Weir - No 1 Pump Station, saw the students involved in activities such as walking up to and across the Weir Wall, touring No 1 Pump Station including the boiler and engine rooms, and discovering the history of the Goldfields Water Scheme in the learning centre.

In keeping with how history shapes the future, the Year 3 students visited Whiteman Park to learn about some of the early days of transportation in Western Australia and how changes in technologies impact people's lives. It was a step back in time with games and stories to help students understand technological change and continuity over time.

Jumping over to the arts, our Year 4 students attended a music performance at Eastern Hills Senior High School with one student even experiencing conducting the band! This year the Year 5 students attended the stage performance of The Lion King at Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre.

In their last year of primary school, our year 6 students, attended school camp at Point Peron, further enriching their teamwork, independence, and resilience while providing opportunities to connect with nature and develop life skills in a guided and supportive environment.

SEEKING AN INDEPENDENT BOARD DIRECTOR

Join our board of directors!

Originally formed by Darlington community members in the 1970's, Treetops is a close-knit community of parents, staff and students, that strive to assist children to develop to their full potential, to be happy and peaceful, to grow in knowledge and confidence and to have respect for themselves and others.

Offering both a Montessori-inspired and International Baccalaureate curriculum as an independent school, Treetops' nurturing environment provides children with a broad, harmonious and thorough education from Playgroup through to Year 12.

We are seeking a professional and dedicated individual to join our board of directors as an independent Director.

Board Directors are volunteers that make decisions and provide oversight in a structured Board environment. With the advice and guidance of the Chair and the Principal, they decide the strategic direction of Treetops, approve policies, monitor and mitigate risk, approve budgets and monitor performance. Directors do not get involved in the day-to-day management and operation of Treetops - that is the responsibility of the Principal. The Board meets 8 times a year, plus an annual general meeting.

Criteria:

- A professional and diligent approach.
- Ability to listen carefully and engage in respectful discussion that supports effective decisions.
- The discipline to to focus on what is best for Treetops now and into the future.
- An open mind and self-reflection.
- Commitment to Treetops' ongoing success and sustainability.

Ideally we are seeking a Director with prior governance experience and training and that can bring expertise in not-for-profit governance and/or community engagement.

If you are interested, please contact Amy Lomas at boardchair@treetops.wa.edu.au for more information.

More information about the Board and Treetops is available at https://www.treetops.wa.edu.au/treetops-board/

Treetops | A Montessori and International Baccalaureate School

People often ask us, what makes Treetops so unique?

Treetops' nurturing environment provides students with a broad, harmonious and thorough education. Our non-comparative and non-competitive environment develops each student as an individual, and encourages them to reach their full potential.

Children's House – Set in our original parent-built A-frame schoolhouse, children ages 3-6 (Pre-Kindy-Pre-Primary) play and learn in a mixed-age, structured, Montessori learning environment. In our Children's House, we aim to reach the children's hearts as well as their minds. Self-esteem and effective relationships are important goals for our programme. Treetops also offers Sugar Gums Playgroup, which is held off-site at the Darlington Family Playgroup Building.

Primary School – Inspired by Montessori methods, our primary years initially focus on guiding students in their innate thirst for knowledge. From Years 3 & 4, students explore more abstract concepts and how subjects are interconnected; and technology is incorporated into daily learning. In Years 5 & 6 students are guided to develop more independence, to begin to understand their place in the world and how they are responsible to society.

Secondary School – Years 7-10 are important formative years in young teenager's lives, and our education programme, utilising the WA Curriculum, is delivered to support this growth. Treetops provides a school environment where students feel secure and recognised. We offer them responsibilities, challenges, and opportunities to discover where they may want to go as adults. By combining the Montessori and International Baccalaureate philosophies during these years, Treetops is uniquely placed to provide a different approach to secondary education.

Years 11 & 12 – Students in the senior years at Treetops are encouraged to follow their passions as they move towards university, employment, or other adventures in the wider world. They are supported to undertake; either the rigorous International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme as a direct pathway to university (ATAR Score); or a tailored WACE General Program (TAFE options available) with the goal of entering employment or undertaking further TAFE study following graduation.

We welcome enquiries from interested families and conduct regular small-group tours of the school.

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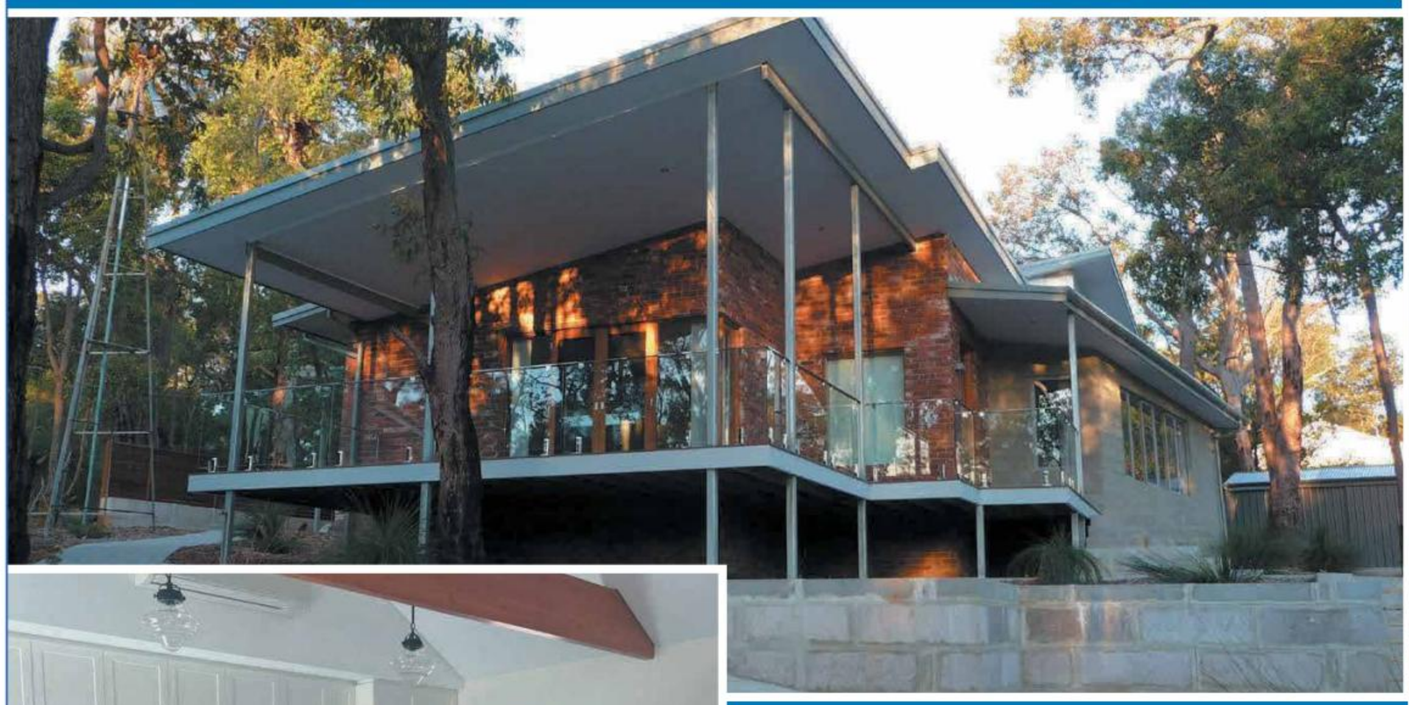

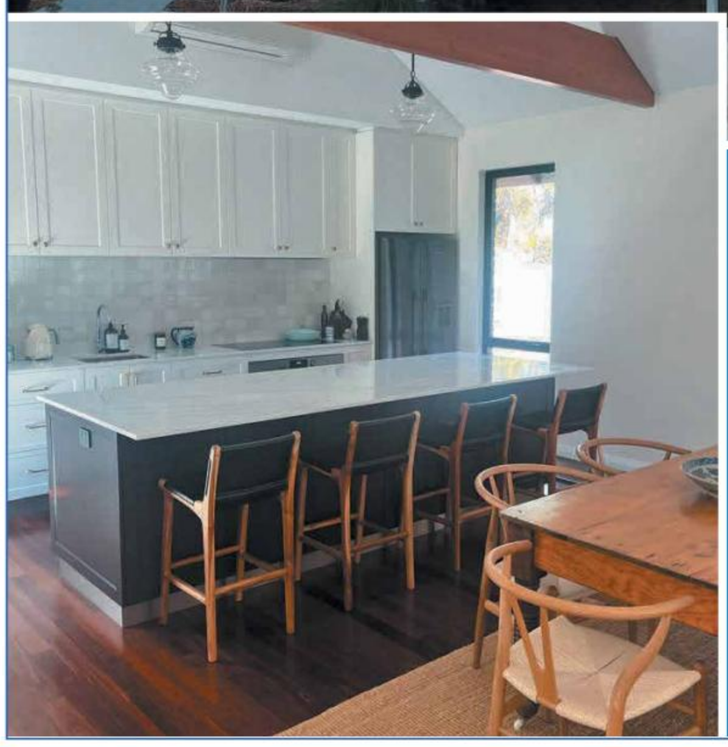

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Camps are an essential part of Steiner education, offering students the chance to develop resilience, leadership, and meaningful connections with nature and each other. These experiences encourage students to step outside their comfort zones, reflect, and grow through shared challenges.

This term, Class 9 took part in their Peak Adventure camp in the Margaret River region, where they embraced a range of exciting activities—cave exploration, sea cliff climbing, 40-metre abseiling, and surfing. Each challenge pushed students to expand their limits, fostering personal growth and strengthening group bonds.

Building on previous lessons in leadership and teamwork, this camp also balanced high-energy activities with moments of rest. Swimming, walking along beaches, and gathering around campfires provided space for reflection and connection with peers.

Living in the bush, free from distractions, allowed students to focus fully on the challenges at hand. Moments of vulnerability strengthened trust within the group, while discussions on risk-taking and resilience provided tools to face life's challenges.

By embracing these experiences together, students deepened their connections, built new skills, and left the camp with a greater sense of accomplishment and camaraderie.

This camp was a transformative adventure for all involved.

MANNA WELLNESS

Welcome to Manna Wellness Darlington (formerly Hills Psychology & Wellness), a health and wellness centre in Darlington and Guildford, integrating mind and body for a uniquely holistic service.

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Explore Pathways to Success at MCC

Located in the scenic hills of Mundaring, Mundaring Christian College offers students a wide range of academic pathways to prepare them for success, whether they aim for university, vocational training, or a career straight out of school. Our diverse curriculum for Years 7 to 12 allows students to discover their passions and develop skills to equip them for success.

Years 7 to 10: Laying the Foundation

Years 7 and 8 focuses on developing a well-rounded education that lays a strong foundation for future studies. Students study core subjects including Mathematics, Humanities, Science, English, Health, Digital Technology, Living Well, Effective Learning, Indonesian and various electives.

Electives in Years 7 and 8 include:

- **Visual Arts:** Explore **Media Production and Analysis** and **Visual Art** to develop creativity and design skills.
- **Performing Arts:** Choose from **Drama** and **Music** for opportunities in self-expression and performance.
- **Design Technologies:** Hands-on subjects like **Food Technologies, Material Design & Technologies**, and **Textiles** offer practical learning.
- **Physical Education & Outdoor Activities:** Get active with options like **Bush Rangers, Mountain Biking**, and **Basketball**.

As students transition to **Years 9 and 10**, they gain access to a broader range of elective subjects, including **Engineering, Music Advanced, Self-defense**, and **Outdoor Education**.

Years 11 & 12: Tailored Pathways for Future Success

Depending on their post-school goals to enter university, the workforce, or vocational training, students choose either the **ATAR** or **General** and **VET** pathway in Years 11 and 12.

ATAR Pathway (University Preparation)

For students aiming for university, the **ATAR** pathway offers academically rigorous courses that develop their knowledge, academic skills, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

ATAR courses at MCC include *English, Geography, Modern History, Media Production & Analysis (Film), Chemistry, Human Biology, Biology, Psychology and Physics as well as Mathematics Applications and Methods.*

General and Vocational Education & Training (VET) Pathway

For students seeking a mix of academic learning and career readiness, the **General** pathway is an ideal choice. It offers flexibility for students who want to work part-time or explore vocational education while completing their secondary education.

General courses include *English, Drama, Music, Visual Arts, Media Production & Analysis (Film), Materials Design and Technology (Wood), Physical Education Studies, Outdoor Education, Mountain Biking and Children, Family and the Community.*

These courses help students gain practical knowledge and prepare for higher education and the workforce.

Our **VET** courses provide students with practical, hands-on learning and nationally recognised qualifications. This pathway is ideal for students seeking job-ready skills in business, hospitality, and IT industries.

School-based VET courses include *Horticulture (Cert II), Business (Cert III), Information Technology (Cert III) and Hospitality (Cert III).*

External-based VET courses *– We support students in engaging with VET courses offered by various training institutions such as North Metro TAFE, The Health Science Hub and The Fremantle Education Centre.*

These courses are designed to give students a head start in their chosen careers while completing their secondary education.

Workplace Learning Program

MCC partners with Work Link to support students completing a **Workplace Learning** course that enables them to work in a workplace one day per week. Students gain valuable work experience and career guidance, including support with resumes, job applications, and interview preparation.

Specialist Programs: Following Your Passion

At Mundaring Christian College, we believe in offering students unique opportunities to follow their passions. Our **Mountain Biking Program** and **Specialist Basketball Program** allow students to excel in these sports while developing their character, leadership and teamwork skills.

Why Choose Mundaring Christian College?

Mundaring Christian College is committed to providing a supportive environment where every student can thrive. With our broad range of pathways and subjects, we give students the tools they need to succeed in whatever direction they choose. Our dedicated staff and strong community actively support students, ensuring they are well-equipped for the future, whether they pursue university study, enter the workforce, or explore vocational training.

As we look forward to 2025, we're excited to continue offering a diverse curriculum that caters to the needs of all students. Our focus on academic excellence, personal growth, and Christian values ensures every student at **Mundaring Christian College** has the support to reach their full potential.

Contact us today to learn how we can help your child build a bright future.

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HELENA COLLEGE

WHEN IT *IS* ROCKET SCIENCE!

We've all heard the phrase, "It's not rocket science!"—but for Helena College graduate Patrick Underwood (Class of 2015), it very definitely is.

Patrick built his first model rocket with the help of Helena College teachers back in 2013. Today, he leads the RMIT Aurora V Rocket Program, through which he and his team have designed, built, and flown five scientific rockets to explore the effect of flight on a biological payload. He is currently studying a Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering (Hons) at RMIT University in Melbourne. Patrick was also named one of this year's Young Australian Space Leaders and received a scholarship to attend the International Astronautical Congress in Milan.

'My whole life now is rockets. So, when the rocket that you've launched after countless hours of work safely touches down, it is one of the best feelings in the world. Working with the Aurora V Rocket team has allowed me to achieve something special with my degree, whilst also providing me with some amazing friendships with a fantastic group of people.'

However, Patrick's journey wasn't as smooth as his rocket launches.

'At the beginning of Year 11, I expected to graduate with a ~90 ATAR. I think I ended on maybe a 70. I say maybe because I don't remember! My plan had been to go straight into Aerospace Engineering, but that ATAR was just not quite good enough, so I went with Plan B.'

Plan B was Astrophysics at Curtin University, but he dropped out after three weeks. He then turned to personal training for three years before returning to Edith Cowan University to study Aeronautical Technology (Plan D).

'I really struggled to find any job in the industry, especially with all the airlines closing down, so post-COVID, I decided to go back to what I had always been passionate about: aerospace.'

Patrick moved to Melbourne to start his studies into Aerospace Engineering at RMIT in 2022, and it wasn't long before he was working with the student rocket team. Two years into his studies, Patrick was offered an internship at SAAB Australia in their Space Team.

'I worked in this role for over a year, before moving into a lead position in RMIT's rocketry team. I consider this to be a real privilege and have thoroughly enjoyed leading a team of 30 to design, build, fly and recover five high-powered rockets across the year. And finally, many years after the dream started, I get to graduate as an Aerospace Engineer at the end of 2024.'

His advice to students: 'Your ATAR does not define you. If you want something badly enough, then there are always pathways to get there. Enjoy the journey that life takes you on after school – it might take you places you never expected.'

If you'd like to read more of Patrick's story, please visit our website at www.helena.wa.edu.au

Applications now invited for enrolment in 2026 and beyond. Limited vacancies available in selected year groups. Find out more on a Helena College tour - book yours today!

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Darlington Community Garden (DCG)

In and around the Darlington Community Garden

Greetings from the Darlington Community Garden! I'm sure the Darlington community has been witnessing the gradual maturing of our community garden. We can now see the landscape design coming into form. Throughout the year, we have taken you on the journey with us; through our notes in the review, you have been able to watch all the steps we have taken with our garden to grow it into its beautiful self.

I have to say though, as we have grown the community garden, the garden has grown us individually and collectively as a community.

Uncle Noel Nannup, a prominent noongar elder, would say that we are growing koort boodja – heart land. Uncle Noel informed us, that goanna, is the Noongar totem for the Darlington area. The Kaarda or Goanna, is the centre piece of our beautiful garden design created by Kylie Brinfield from Garden Insight Design Studio. We are forever grateful to Kylie for this amazing design that captures the heart and spirit of this ancient Boodja, and for merging the dreaming so beautifully with contemporary living. The union of two cultures; brilliant! Kylie has also given so much of her time in helping us to bring the design into form. We appreciate your generous community heart!

It took a village to birth this goanna into reality by creating garden beds around it. To do this, we used corden steel to edge the garden beds and the paths around our beloved goanna. Our thanks go to the Dept of Communities for funding this project. We are also grateful to Jo Blout from Blout Landscaping for assisting us with the installation.

Like I said, it took a village to work this project to its fruition; Vice Chair Alison who coordinated this project and secured the grant to fund it. So many sterling helpers: Norm, Keith, Gemma, Simone, Paul, Erin, Shelton, Rosie, Ian, Gus, Sandeep, Kyle, Geoff, Graeme, Alf, Ben and more. Sue, Trish and Sally who did the vital work of feeding us! You are all STARS!

To quote Erin Grey, "Always so much going on (in) the garden these days. Obviously, the goanna is the star of the show and sets the bar high for the rest of the garden."

The garden buzzes with creative activity and I can't include it all in my notes. So, please join our Facebook page and be a part of the DCG journey. There will be no produce swap for the months of December and January and we thank everyone who participated in the produce swap throughout this year. Please enjoy our community garden and harvest the fresh produce with a smile!

MON 4.00pm GARDEN BUSY BEES

PLANT AND PRODUCE SWAP

SUNDAYS from 4.30pm
(2nd Sunday of month)

Bring produce, seeds, cuttings, plants, herbs, jams, etc and plate of food and drink to share.

Come and JOIN US

From 5pm - **DRUMMING CIRCLE** and Yarning. Drums provided.
(Every second Sunday)

NEW MEMBERS

www.darlingtoncommunitygarden.org.au/join-us-1

Keep in touch and have your say on our DCG FACEBOOK page www.facebook.com/groups/218148335647263

JOIN US FACEBOOK

Friends of Darlington Station Reserve (FODS)

What a Wonderful End to 2024

By the time you read this we will all be getting into the spirit of Christmas with all the celebrating and gathering together that entails: I love it. It is also a time to look back over the year at our achievements and our challenges; our successes and tribulations.

Still fresh in our memories, The Darlington Arts Festival (DAF) was definitely one of the high points of our year on the Station Reserve. Sculptures on the Scarp was a great success for both the artists involved whose works looked so much at home in the beautiful native plantings of the reserve and for the FODS gardeners to see the results of their efforts. The icing on the cake is that FODS have acquired the winning sculpture, also runner up for the People's Choice, from the 2024 Sculpture on the Scarp, the Kangaroo Paws, and with permission from the Shire hope to instal it on the Station Reserve; so lucky. Thank you to all who volunteered during DAF and especially those who helped on the Station Reserve and to all who passed through and admired the sculptures and the setting.

We FODS had one more working morning in November to organise the summer watering and to replace the green sleeves on new plants. Then we had a 'wind up' celebration with Christmas cake, fruit mince pies and more, courtesy of Suzie, with Prosecco and coffee too. It was a beautiful morning and it was a fitting end to a busy FODS year.

Happy Christmas and Every Best Wish for 2025

Diane

Painted Lady Orchids that flowered in October in profusion on the reserve

The Tree Eremophila now in flower and worth trying at home

WA Christmas tree, Nuytsia Floribunda, that should be flowering in our area when you read this, it means Christmas is coming.

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(*Contact Production Manager for any clarification of specifications.)

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DEC. 24th

BYO Picnic from 6:30pm
Carols 7:30 - 8:30pm

Outside
Darlington Hall

BYO
battery candles
or torches
(no flames please)

Coming Soon!

Fri 17 Jan
4.30pm to 8.30pm
Movie in the Park
Brown Park Oval

Fri 31 Jan
12pm to 4pm
LakeFest
Lake Leschenaultia

Sat 22 Feb
5.30pm to 8.30pm
Twilight Tunes
Sculpture Park Ampitheatre

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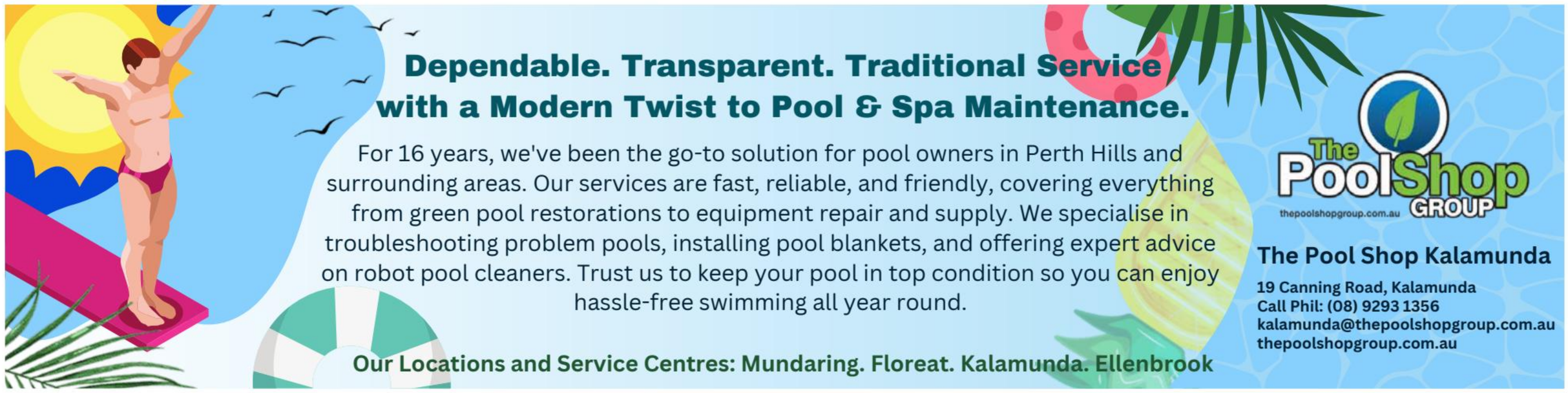
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